"By far the best comic on the stands." —*Entertainment Weekly*

MISTER MIRACLE™

EISNER AWARD WINNER
BEST WRITER
BEST ARTIST

TOM KING

MITCH GERADS

MISTER
MIRACLE

TOM KING writer | **MITCH GERADS** artist and colorist | **CLAYTON COWLES** letterer

MITCH GERADS collection cover art | **NICK DERINGTON** original series cover art

MISTER MIRACLE

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MISTER MIRACLE

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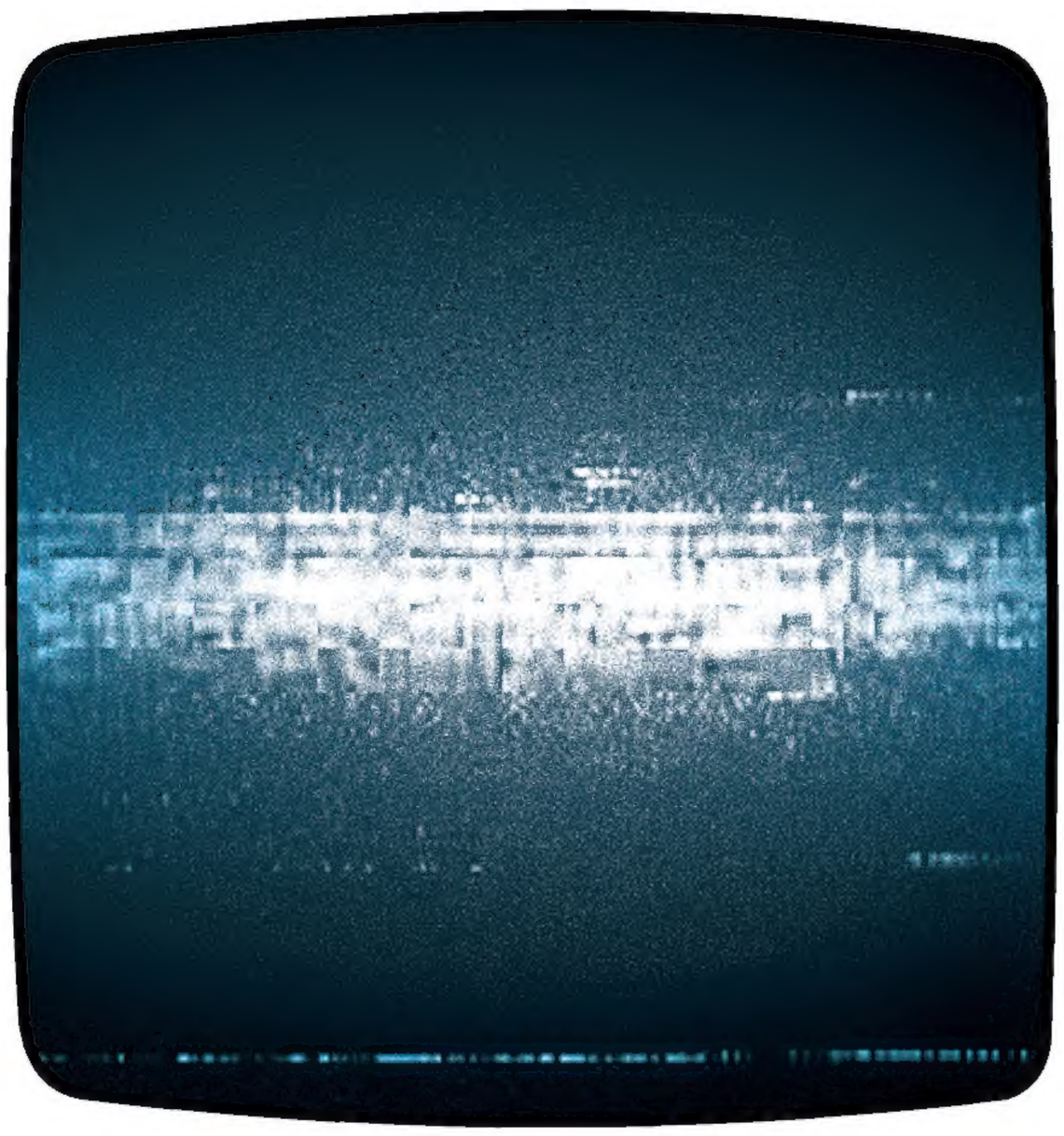
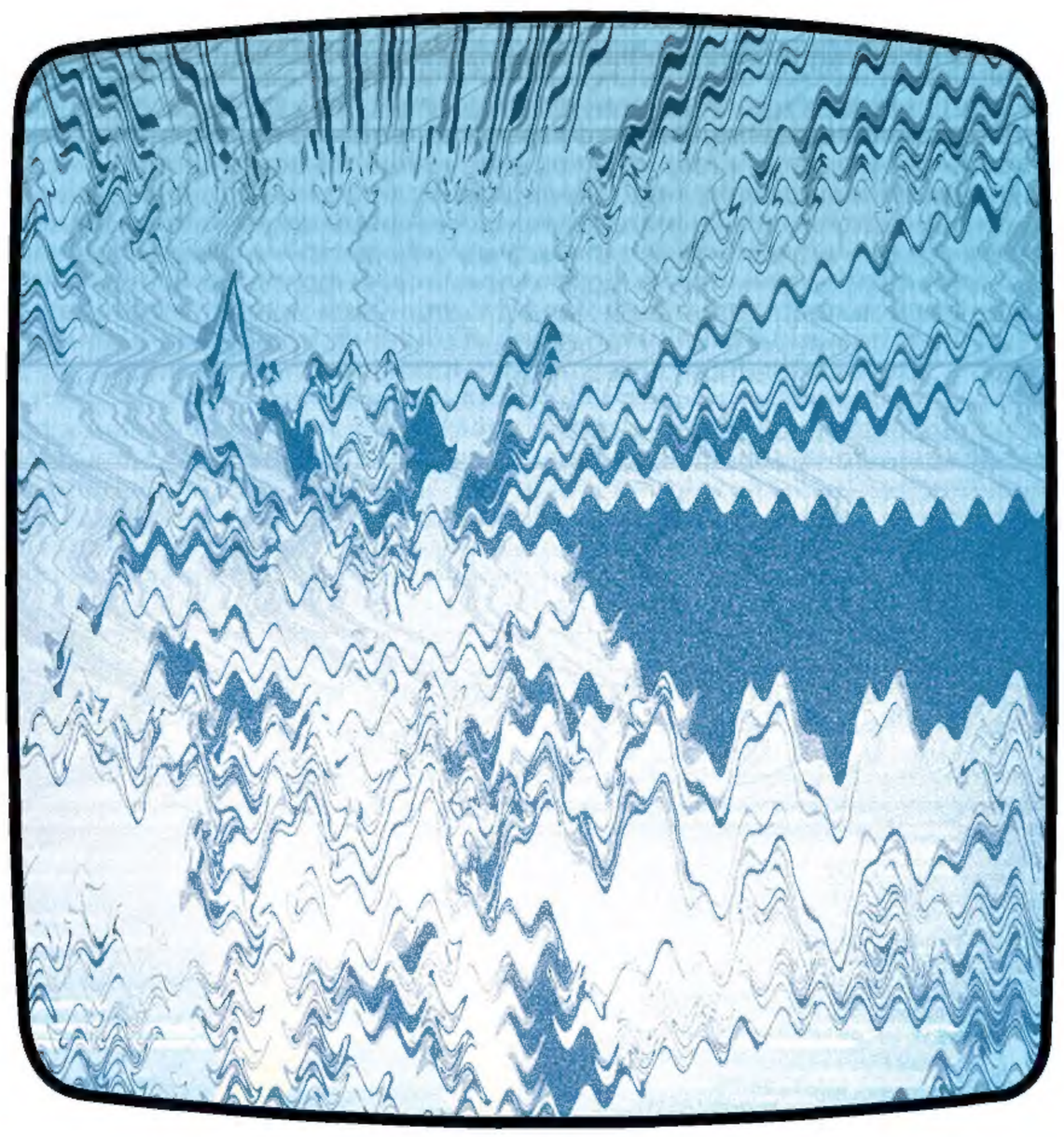
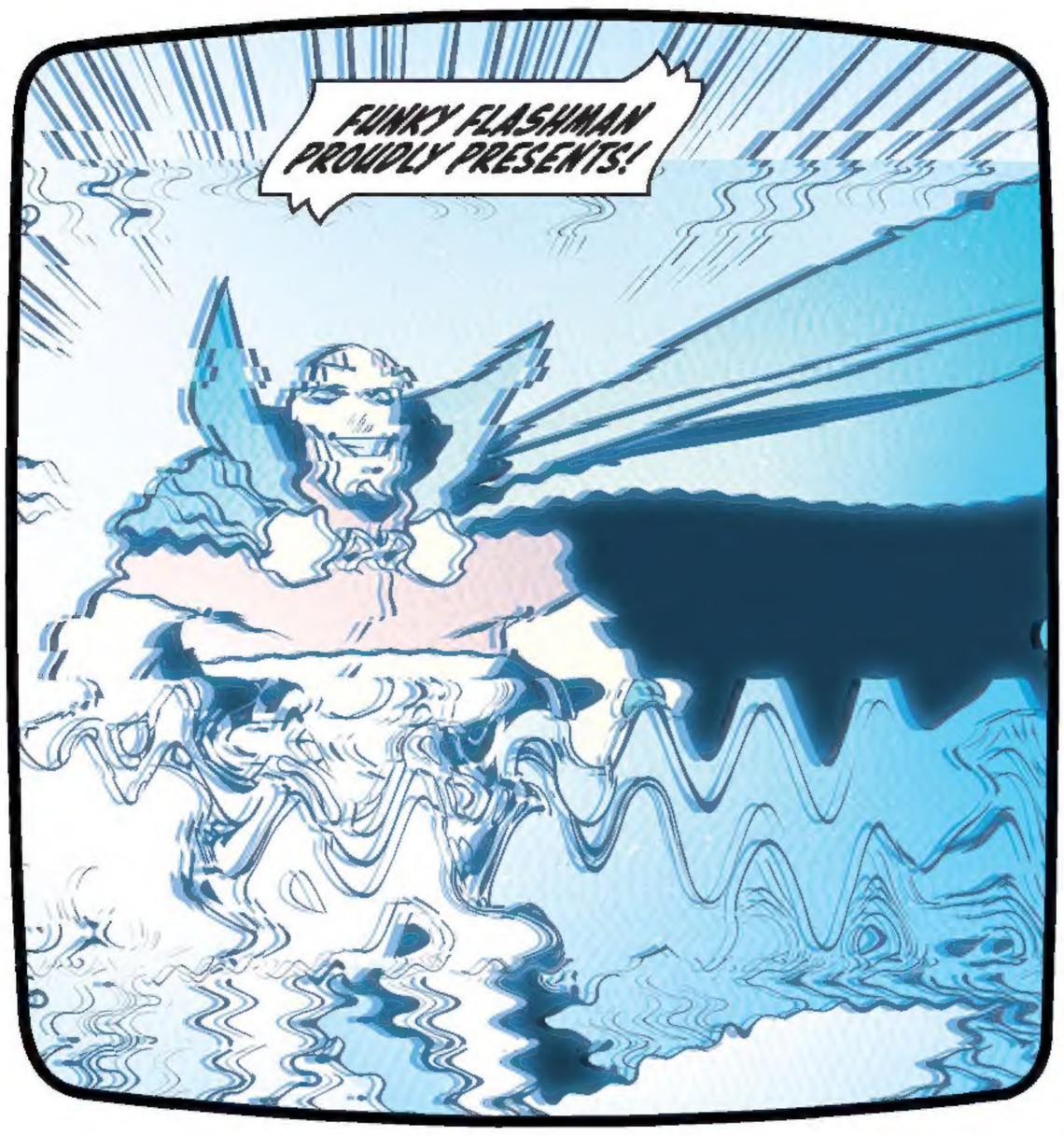
NICK DERINGTON

Something wrong with me.

There's something wrong.






FUNKY FLASHMAN PROUDLY PRESENTS!

THE SECRET ORIGIN OF
MISTER MIRACLE!

PLAGUED BY SIN AND STRIFE, THE OLD GODS DIED IN FLAMES!

FROM THEIR ASHES TWO PLANETS WERE FORMED!

AS EQUAL IN POWER AS THEY WERE OPPOSITES IN PHILOSOPHY!

RULED BY THE KIND, GRACIOUS HIGHFATHER--

--THE NEW GODS OF NEW GENESIS DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO ALL THAT WAS GOOD AND DECENT!

MEANWHILE, WICKED, DEPLORABLE DARKSEID CONQUERED THE HELLSCAPE OF APOKOLIPS!

THIS HORRID DESPOT THEN SET HIS SHAMEFUL SIGHTS ON THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!

AS PART OF HIS NEFARIOUS PLOTTING, DARKSEID SOUGHT OUT THE GREATEST WEAPON KNOWN TO MAN OR GOD!

THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!

COMPOSED OF THE FEARS AND ANXIETIES OF THE HUMAN MIND...

...THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION HELD THE POWER TO CONTROL AND DESTROY HOPE ITSELF!

KNOWING GRACIOUS, LOVING HIGHFATHER WOULD SEEK TO STOP HIM FROM OBTAINING THE EQUATION...

...FOUL DARKSEID INVADED NEW GENESIS!

AND WAR CAME!

BLOODY AND MERCILESS WAR!

GRUESOME AND TERRIFYING WAR!

BILLIONS OF LIVES WERE LOST ON BOTH SIDES!

THE LAMENTATIONS OF THE MOURNFUL CURSED THE AIR!

AND STILL THE WRETCHED WAR CONTINUED!

UNTIL!

SUFFOCATING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE DEAD, THE TWO GREAT GODS CAME TO AN AGREEMENT!

A CEASEFIRE! A RESPITE FROM THE ENDLESS CLANG OF BATTLE!

HOWEVER!

TO GUARANTEE THE ARMISTICE, A PRICE HAD TO BE PAID!

DARKSEID AND HIGHFATHER WOULD EXCHANGE SONS!

THE SON OF THE DEVIL WAS TO BE BROUGHT TO PARADISE!

AND THE SON OF GOD WAS TO BE BROUGHT TO HELL!

IT WAS THE HUNDREDTH DAY OF THE HUNDREDTH YEAR OF THE WAR OF THE NEW GODS!

BUT PEACE WAS AT HAND!

AND SO THE PRICE WAS PAID! AND THE FATHERS ACCEPTED THEIR NEW SONS!

AND FINALLY THE BLOODY BATTLEFIELDS OF THE FOURTH WORLD QUELLED THEIR HORRID YAWP!

ONE BOY WAS WARMLY WELCOMED INTO THE HOME OF HIGHFATHER!

HE WAS RAISED WITH LOVE AND TENDERNESS AND GRACE!

AS WITH ALL YOUTHS OF APOKOLIPS, THE OTHER BOY WAS GIVEN TO GRANNY GOODNESS!

HE WOULD BE RAISED IN THE X-PIT, FORGED INTO A WARRIOR WORTHY OF HIS PERNICIOUS NEW FATHER!

AFFECTIONATE, WISE HIGHFATHER CALLED HIS BOY ORION!

HE TOLD THE LAD OF A PROPHECY THAT ONE DAY THE SON OF DARKSEID WOULD KILL DARKSEID!

AND ORION EAGERLY PREPARED FOR THIS CLIMACTIC CONFRONTATION!

THE OTHER BOY WAS TORTURED AND MAIMED! HE WAS HARDENED!

THE POOR CHILD TRIED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO RUN AWAY FROM HIS HORROR, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS CAUGHT!

WITNESSING THESE QUIXOTIC EFFORTS, GRANNY LAUGHINGLY, IRONICALLY NAMED THE BOY SCOTT FREE!

AS THE LONELY, HARROWING YEARS PASSED, SENSATIONAL SCOTT FREE KEPT TRYING TO ESCAPE!

AND AS THE EXCRUCIATING, DISTRESSING YEARS PASSED, GRUESOME GRANNY GOODNESS KEPT CAPTURING HIM!

BUT AFTER ALL THOSE ABHORRENT, APPALLING YEARS, ALL THOSE SAD, FAILED ATTEMPTS, ALL THOSE DISGUSTING PUNISHMENTS...

...DID SCOTT FREE EVER GIVE UP?!?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

WHAT IS MORE, ALL THOSE NOBLE EFFORTS EARNED HIM THE ADMIRATION OF ONE OF DARKSEID'S GREATEST WARRIORS:

BIG BARDA!

LEADER OF THE FEMALE FURIES! HERSELF A PROUD PRODUCT OF THE X-PIT!

BUT THAT IS SMALL COMFORT FOR THOSE GRIM, GRISLY YEARS.

ALL THOSE PERILOUS, TREACHEROUS ESCAPE ATTEMPTS...

ALL FOR NAUGHT!

UNTIL ONE WAS NOT!

AND SCOTT FREE WAS FREE!

AT HOME NEITHER IN NEW GENESIS OR APOKOLIPS, SCOTT FREE EMIGRATED TO EARTH!

HERE HE SOUGHT A WONDERFUL, FANTASTIC LIFE!

HERE HE BEFRIENDED A FAMOUS ESCAPE ARTIST KNOWN AS MISTER MIRACLE!

WHO PERFORMED GREAT FEATS OF FLIGHT WITH HIS GRUMPY, LOVABLE PARTNER, OBERON!

WHEN MONSTROUS CRETINS MURDERED THIS BELOVED MENTOR, SCOTT DONNED THE ARTIST'S MASK!

ALL THOSE YEARS OF ESCAPE REALLY PAID OFF AS HE TOOK TO THE STAGE AS:

MISTER MIRACLE!

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST!

WHEN CALLED, SCOTT RETURNED TO NEW GENESIS TO BATTLE THE TIDE OF TYRANNY!

THERE HE TEAMED WITH HONORABLE ORION TO COUNTER DARKSEID'S LOATHSOME MACHINATIONS!

DURING THESE ADVENTURES HE FOUGHT WITH, BEFRIENDED AND FELL IN LOVE WITH BIG BARDA!

EVENTUALLY, SHE BETRAYED HER MALICIOUS MASTERS AND THE TWO LOVEBIRDS WERE MARRIED!

AND SO FROM HIS ROUGH BEGINNINGS, SCOTT FREE BUILT A NEW FAMILY!

AND EMBRACED A NEW DESTINY!

I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE!

BUT THOUGH OUR GREAT HERO NOW OCCUPIES A SEAT OF COMFORT AND TRANQUILITY...

...MISTER MIRACLE NEVER FORGETS THAT SOMEWHERE OUT THERE...

DARKSEID IS

TOM KING WRITER
MIKE NORTON ILLUSTRATOR
JORDIE BELLAIRE COLORS
CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
BRITTANY HOLZHERR ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH EDITOR

IS HE A MASTER OF SPECTACULAR TRICKERY-- OR IS HE SOMETHING MORE?

YOU WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHEN YOU CONFRONT THE STRANGEST, MOST INCREDIBLE HERO EVER TO APPEAR IN COMICS!

YOU WILL SEE WHAT HE DOES-- YOU WILL WONDER HOW HE DOES IT!

BUT ALWAYS WAITING IN THE WINGS-- ARE HIS TWO GREATEST ENEMIES--

THE MEN WHO CHALLENGE HIM-- AND DEATH HIMSELF!

MEET:

MISTER MIRACLE

TOM KING
WRITER

MITCH GERADS
PENCILS, INKS & COLORS

CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERS

NICK DERINGTON
COVERS

MOLLY MAHAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JAMIE S. RICH
EDITOR

AND THE TEACHER SAYS TO THE WHOLE CLASS, "DRAW WHATEVER YOU WANT."

WHEN THEY'RE DONE, THE TEACHER ASKS THEM WHAT THEY'VE DRAWN. AND THE CHILDREN SAY DINOSAURS, HEARTS, SUPERHEROES, ANYTHING, DOESN'T MATTER.

THEN ONE CHILD SAYS, "I DREW GOD!"

SO THE TEACHER SAYS, "THAT'S VERY NICE, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT GOD LOOKS LIKE."

AND THE CHILD, WITHOUT A SECOND'S HESITATION, SAYS:

YEAH.

UNTIL NOW.

SCOTT!

WOOWOOWOOWO

MY MAMA FELL. CAN YOU LOOK AT MY MAMA?

NO, NO, THEY SAID IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY. THANK GOD, RIGHT?

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER IT'S GOING TO BE? I'VE BEEN HERE TOO LONG.

IT HURTS! IT HURTS! IT HURTS!

Darkseid is.

JUST LET ME KNOW IF IT'S TOO TIGHT.

IT'S REALLY EASY TO ADJUST.

WE WANT TO KEEP YOU OVERNIGHT.

MAYBE FOR A FEW NIGHTS. JUST TO WATCH.

MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY.

YOU CAN STRETCH THE CHAIR INTO A BED, IF YOU DO IT LIKE THIS.

OKAY.

BUT, I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY IT'S MEANT FOR...KIND OF LESS TALL PEOPLE.

OF COURSE.

I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE!

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH IT. I'LL ASK THE NURSE.

WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT IT.

SHOULDN'T WE TALK ABOUT IT?

THAT'S HIM, RIGHT?

EMERGENCY

THAT'S MISTER MIRACLE.

SCOTT, SCOTT!

SCOTT, LOOK THIS WAY!

SCOTT, WHY'D YOU DO IT?

SCOTT, JUST ONE SECOND, JUST LISTEN!

SCOTT, TALK TO YOUR FANS!

JUST LET ME DO IT.

NO. YOU'LL RIP YOUR BANDAGES.

MIRACLE

THERE ARE MESSAGES FROM SO MANY PEOPLE. THE WHOLE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

CLARK WAS OUTSIDE MY WINDOW LAST NIGHT.

I THINK I FORGOT MY HELMET AT THE HOSPITAL.

GOD--

DO THEY ITCH, SCOTT?

DOCTOR SAID IF THEY ITCH REALLY BAD, WE SHOULD CALL THEM.

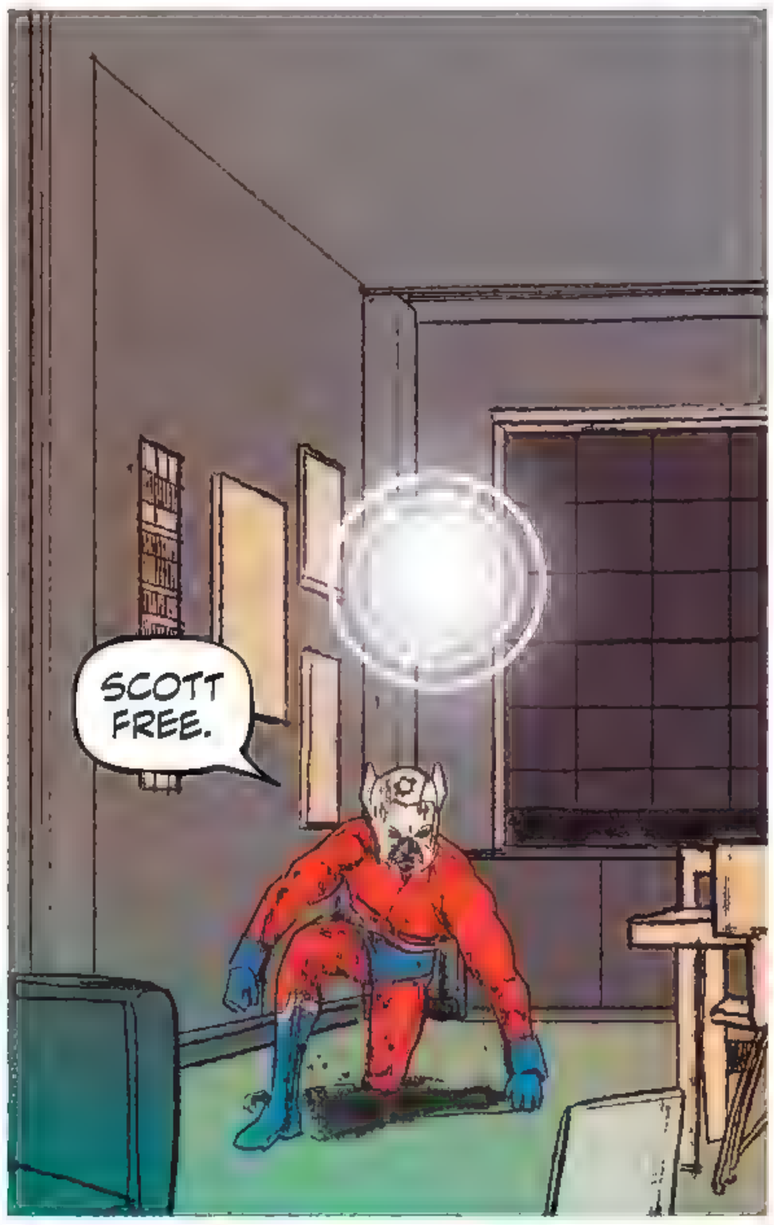
CAMPBELL HAS TWO TDs AND NINE INTERCEPTIONS ON THE SEASON.

WHY ARE THE KNIGHTS STICKING WITH THIS GUY?

HOW BAD COULD THE BACKUP BE?!

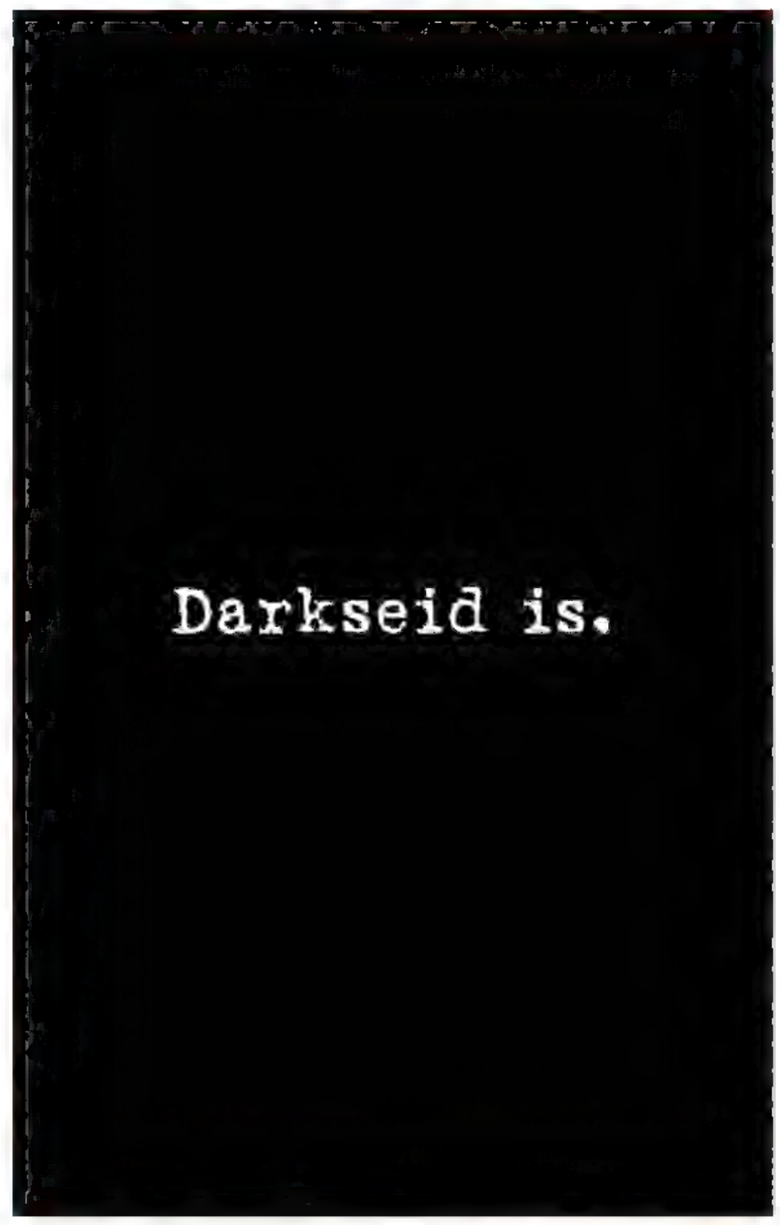
Darkseid is.

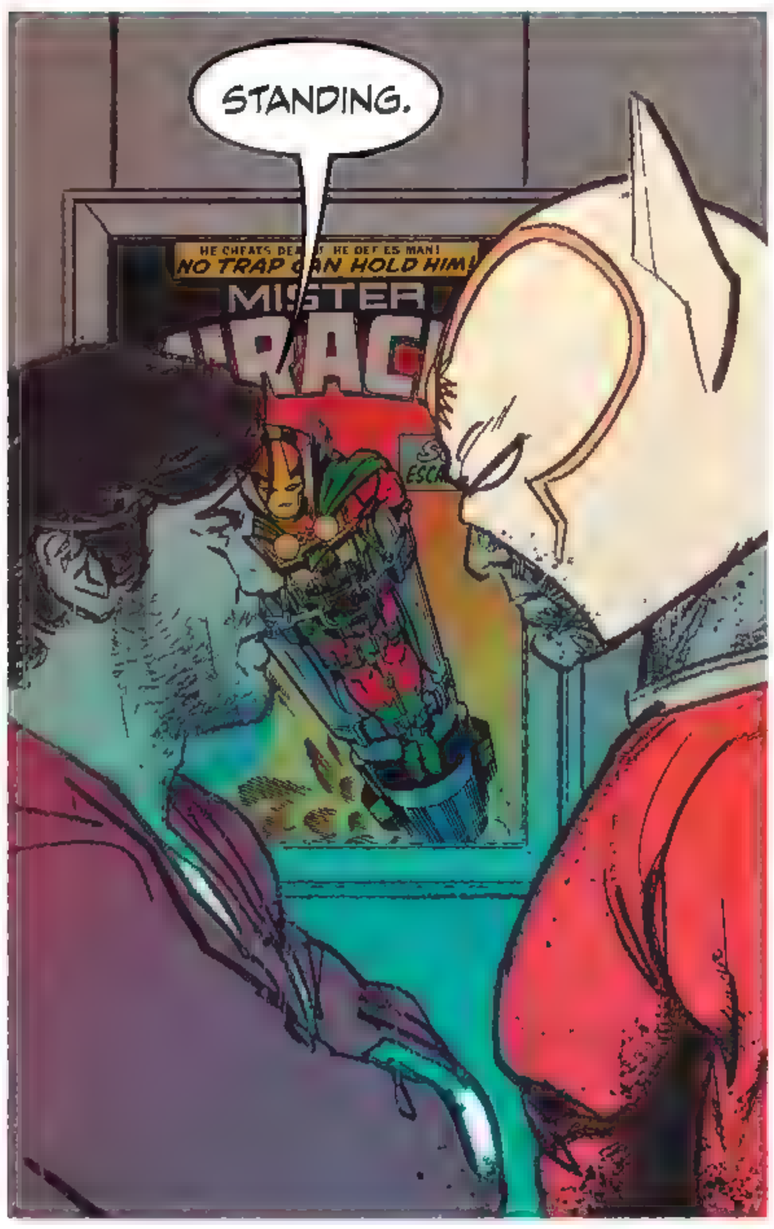
BOOM


SCOTT FREE.

YEAH.
OKAY.

STAND.


Darkseid is.


STANDING.
NO TRAP

STAND.

I KNOW.

STANDING.

POW

STAND!

I KNOW!

STANDING!

HE CHEATS DEATH HE DEFIES MAN!
NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!
MISTER

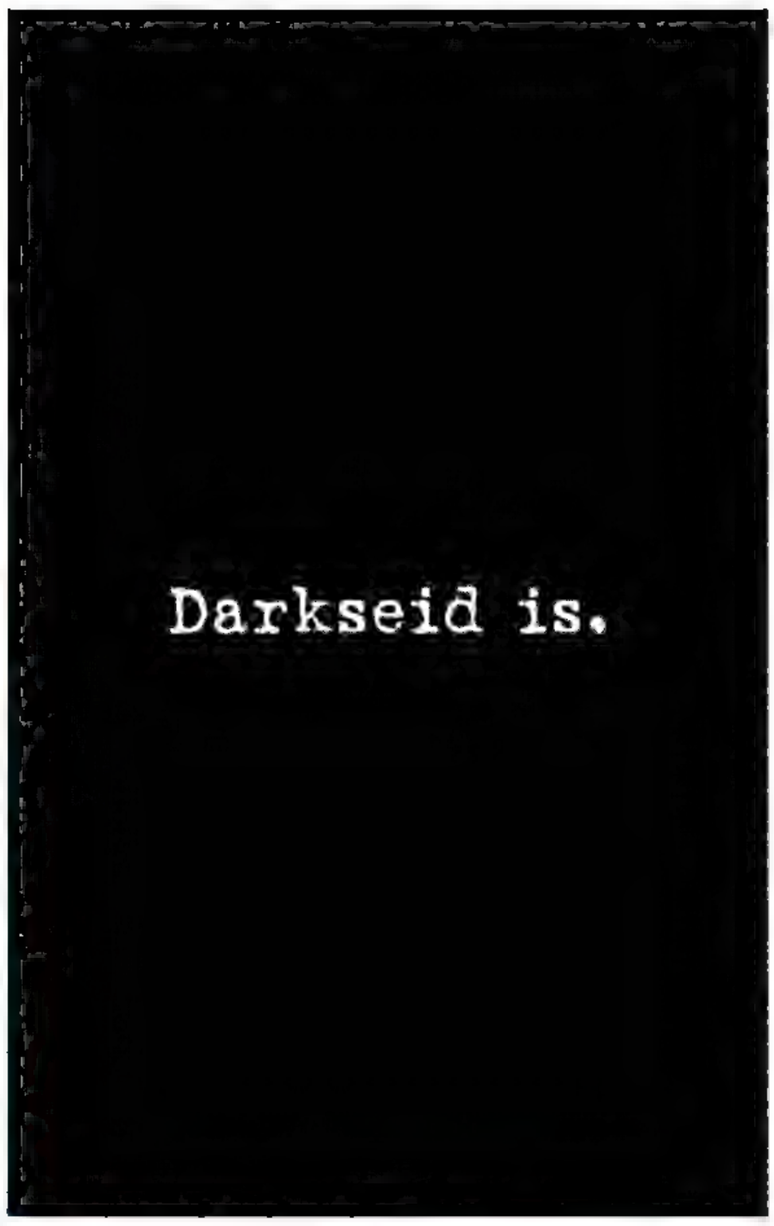
ESCAP

Darkseid is.

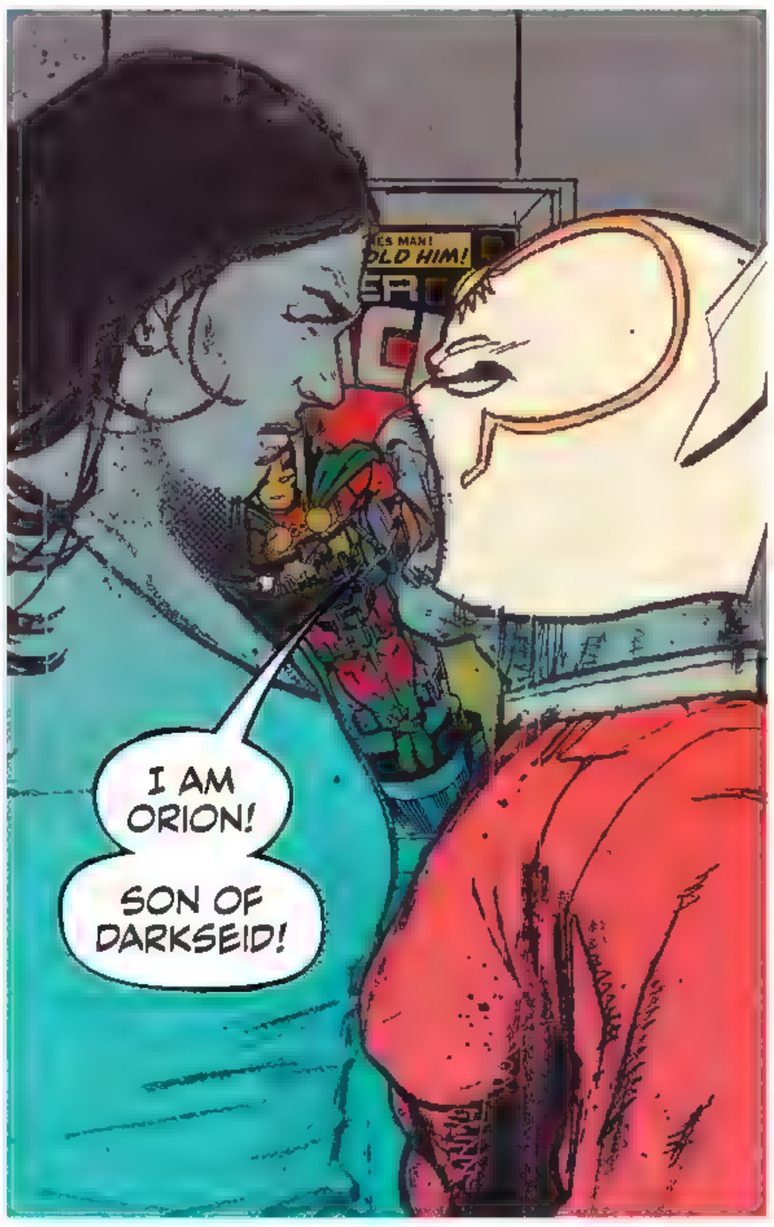
STAND!

NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!
MISTER
RACLE
SUPER
ESCAPE ARTIST
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

I AM TEACHING.

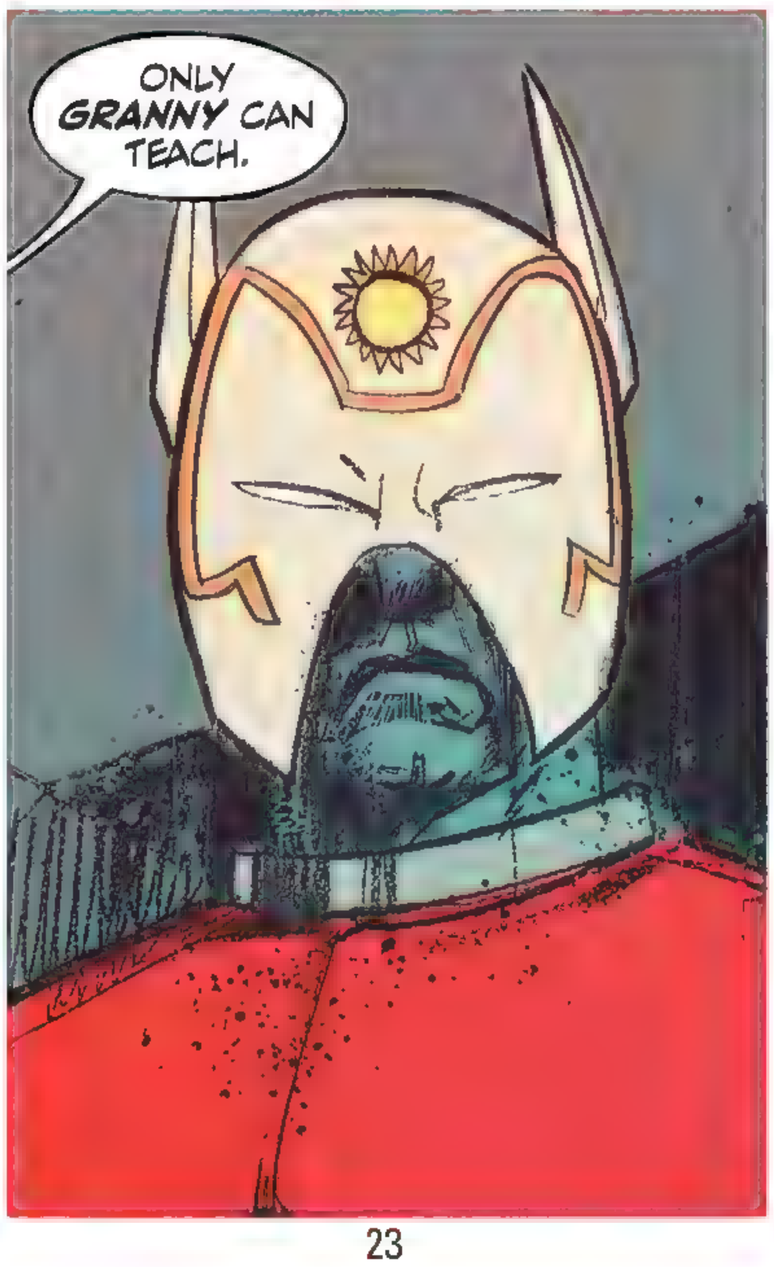

Darkseid is.

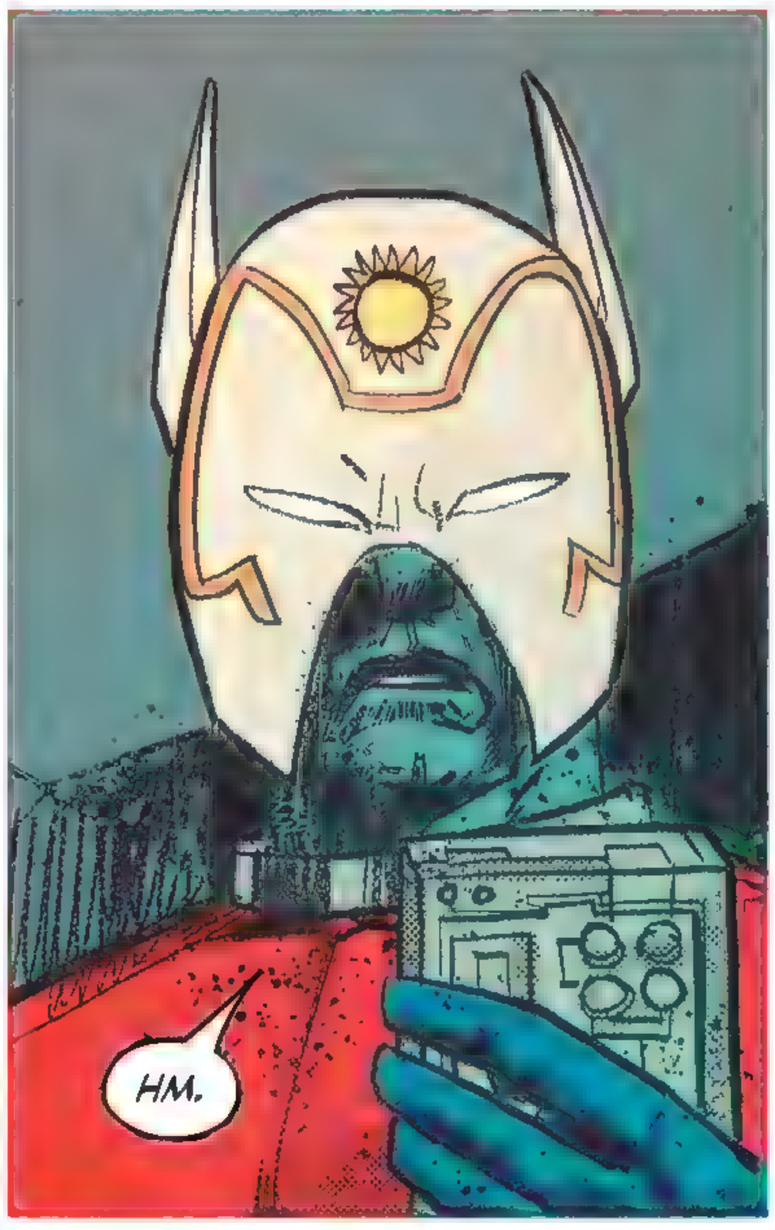
SUPER
ESCAPE ARTIST
"TEACHING"?! YOU?!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?


I AM ORION!
SON OF DARKSEID!

NO, NO, NO, YOU'RE ORION, SON OF HIGHFATHER.
A STRAY PUPPY RAISED ON THE FLUFFED PILLOWS OF NEW GENESIS.

NOW, SCOTT AND I DIDN'T HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF PILLOWS.
WE WERE RAISED ON APOKOLIPS. IN THE PITS. IN THE FIRE!
SO WE KNOW.


ONLY GRANNY CAN TEACH.


HM.

MOTHER BOX.
HOME.
PING
BARDA...
SHHHH
Darkseid is.
SCOTT, HE'S AN ASS. HE'S ALWAYS AN ASS.
HE'S JUST DEALING WITH THIS-- AND YOU--LIKE HE DOES.
NO, NO, ***BARDA,*** YOUR EYES...
WHAT?
YOUR EYES, THEY'RE NOT BLUE. THEY WERE BLUE.
BUT THEY'RE BROWN. WHY ARE THEY BROWN?
SCOTT, DON'T BE CRAZY.
THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN BROWN.
HOW HARD DID HE HIT YOU?

Darkseid is.

OH MY GOD.

OH.

MY.

GOD.

JESUS.

OHMYGODOHMYGODOHMYGOD!

HOLY CHRIST.

GOD DAMN!

GOD!

DAMN!

Clap Clap
ClaP ClaP Clap
Clap Clap

ONE MORE TIME, *EVERYONE!*

MISTER MIRACLE!

NOW, NOW, MISTER MIRACLE. BEFORE WE GET TO *EVERYTHING,* AND I MEAN EVERYTHING...

...WE ARE ALL, I THINK, ALL *WONDERING* THE SAME THING. THE SAME THING I'M WONDERING.

SOMETHING WE SHOULD... *PROBABLY*...ADDRESS.

OF COURSE.

ABOUT A MONTH BACK, IT WAS REPORTED, WIDELY REPORTED, THAT YOU--

--YOU TRIED TO...I *DON'T* KNOW THE RIGHT WORDS...BUT *YOU* KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING.

YOU TRIED SOMETHING... NEW.

YEAH, SOMETHING... *UHM...*

...PRETTY NEW.

Hahahaha

WELL, NOW WE'RE HERE, WE'RE *ALL* HERE.

MAYBE, MISTER MIRACLE, YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT FOR YOUR FANS AND EXPLAIN.

OR IF YOU DON'T WANT TO... WHATEVER YOU WANT.

Darkseid is.

NO, NO, I WANT TO.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE, FOR *YOU* TO KNOW, GODFREY.

I WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT WHAT HAPPENED...

IT WASN'T IMPORTANT.

Darkseid is.

IT WAS A TRICK.

I'D BEEN DOING A LOT OF ESCAPES LATELY. A BUNCH OF THEM.

AND I WAS TRYING TO DO...HARDER ONES. LIKE THE ***HARDEST*** ONES.

AND EVERYTHING WAS GETTING REALLY EASY, BORING-EASY. BORING FOR ME ***AND*** THE AUDIENCE.

SO, I WAS JUST THINKING, HOW CAN I BE BETTER?

YOU KNOW, WHAT ***CAN'T*** I ESCAPE FROM? WHAT ***SHOULDN'T*** I ESCAPE FROM?

WHAT DOESN'T ***ANYONE*** ESCAPE FROM?

DEATH.

NO ONE ESCAPES FROM DEATH.

SO I KILLED MYSELF.

GGGHKK

THBTBTBTB

Hahahaha

Clap Clap Clap Clap

Darkseid is.

WHEN I WOKE UP, MY LOVELY WIFE, BARDA, WAS THERE. IN THE HOSPITAL.

SHE FOUND ME IN OUR APARTMENT, I GUESS, AND SHE TOOK ME TO THE HOSPITAL.

AND SO THAT'S...UH... THAT WAS ALL IT WAS.

GREAT. GREAT. JUST GREAT.

JUST AMAZING STUFF, REALLY.

BUUUUT...BUTBUTBUT-- I GUESS THAT DOES LEAVE ***ONE*** QUESTION UNANSWERED.

IT DOES, DOESN'T IT?

DID YOU ACTUALLY, REALLY ***ESCAPE?***

I MEAN, DEATH, RIGHT?

DID YOU ***ESCAPE*** DEATH, MISTER MIRACLE?

WHAT?

OH! SORRY, MY APOLOGIES, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE A BREAK.

EARN SOME MONEY WITH THEM THERE VERY FINE COMMERCIALS!

DON'T WORRY, FOLKS!

WE'LL COME RIGHT BACK!

I HEARD YOUR BROTHER CAME BY.

SCOTT.

HE'S NOT MY BROTHER.

FATHER.

WELL, I'M SORRY IT TOOK *ME* SO LONG.

I WOULD HAVE COME RIGHT AFTER I HEARD ABOUT YOUR INCIDENT.

BUT A CRISIS ON NEW GENESIS HAS ARISEN, ONE UNLIKE ANY WE'VE EVER KNOWN.

DARKSEID?

THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION?

AFTER MANY BLOODY FAILURES, I HAVE FINALLY PLACED A SPY IN DARKSEID'S INNER CIRCLE.

THIS MAN, TRAGICALLY, REPORTS THAT THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE.

DARKSEID NOW HAS HIS EQUATION.

WAIT, ARE YOU--

HE'S *ALREADY* GOT IT?

WITH THE EQUATION, DARKSEID WILL BE ABLE TO CHANGE REALITY.

TO CHANGE MEN'S MINDS.

THIS IS WHY I CANNOT STAY LONGER, SCOTT.

I WOULD *LIKE* TO STAY LONGER.

HOWEVER. DARKSEID.

YES, FATHER. OF COURSE.

I GET IT.

GOT 'EM OFF THIS THANAGARIAN PRISON GUARD VISITING L.A.

GUY WAS LOOKING FOR MOVIE STARS AND WHATNOT.

CAME TO THE STUDIO LOOKING FOR ***YOU*** AND JUST GAVE 'EM TO ME.

SAID THEY WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK OUT OF.

IMPOSSIBLE. CAN YOU IMAGINE?

Darkseid is.

HEY, Y'KNOW I HEARD A GOOD ONE LAST NIGHT.

THIS TEACHER ASKS HER KIDS TO DRAW A PICTURE OF WHATEVER, ANYTHING, RIGHT?

AND THE KIDS DO, AND WHEN THEY'RE DONE, THE TEACHER ASKS THEM WHAT THEY'VE DRAWN.

Darkseid is.

AND THE KIDS SAY WHAT THEY'VE DONE. A DINOSAUR, A HEART, A SUPERHERO.

Y'KNOW, WHATEVER. ALL THE NORMAL STUFF NORMAL KIDS DO.

EXCEPT THIS ONE KID, WHO SAYS HE'S DRAWN ***GOD.***

AND THE TEACHER SAYS, *"BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT GOD LOOKS LIKE."*

AND THE KID SAYS:

"YEAH.

"UNTIL NOW."

Darkseid is.

HAHAHAHA.

WHAT? IT'S FUNNY.

DON'T TELL ME YOU HEARD IT BEFORE.

KNOCK KNOCK

THAT'S PROBABLY BARDA.

SHE GETS WORRIED.

YEAH, SHE SHOULD BE WORRIED. GO GET IT BEFORE SHE GETS ***MAD.***

I'M GOING TO WORK ON THESE.

Darkseid is.

I'M SORRY, I KNOW, YOU DON'T NEED...

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T LIKE YOU BEING ALONE IN THE STUDIO.

I WASN'T ALONE. OBERON'S HERE.

HE HAD SOME CUFFS HE GOT OFF A THANAGARIAN.

OBERON?

SCOTT? ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH, I GOT THEM RIGHT OFF. IT WAS EASY.

OBERON'S ADJUSTING THEM, TRYING TO MAKE THEM HARDER PROBABLY.

LIKE IT MATTERS.

BUT OBERON IS... SCOTT...OBERON, YOU KNOW, RIGHT?

SCOTT, SCOTT, LISTEN TO ME.

"I REMEMBER THE CANCER IN HIS THROAT HIS MOUTH FROM THE CIGARS"

"HE PASSED LAST MONTH."

PING
PING

Darkseid is.

"NO."

"SCOTT YOU WERE THERE. WE WERE THERE. WE--YOU MADE THE DECISION."

PING
PING

Darkseid is.

"HE WAS SUFFERING AND YOU-- YOU SAID HE WOULDN'T WANT THAT."

"WHAT. NO. I DON'T--HE'S HERE. HE'S IN THE ROOM."

PING
PING

Darkseid is.

"HE'S HERE. HE'S TELLING ME A STORY. THERE'S A KID AND A PICTURE."

"SCOTT. PLEASE. PLEASE."

PING
PING

Darkseid is.

NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!
MISTER MIRACLE
ESCAPE ARTIST

"HE'S HERE."

PING
PING

Darkseid is.

"NO, SCOTT. NO ONE'S HERE.

"YOU'RE ALONE."

PING PING

Darkseid is.

Darkseid is.

PING PING

YES, MOTHER BOX.

Darkseid is.

SCOTT, THIS IS ORION. THERE IS NO TIME.

HIGHFATHER IS **DEAD.** DARKSEID'S WORK.

Darkseid is.

DARKSEID'S POWER IS GROWING. I HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE FORCES OF NEW GENESIS.

WE ARE ORGANIZING A RESISTANCE. YOU AND BIG BARDA ARE REQUIRED TO COME HOME.

Darkseid is.

Darkseid is.

I GOT A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE.

SHE'S GOING TO CHECK IN ON THE CATS.

OKAY.

BOOM

BARDA.

SCOTT.

WE HAVE TO GO.

SOMETHING'S... WRONG.

SCOTT, PLEASE, WE DON'T HAVE TIME. IT'S THE FINAL WAR.

WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL ATTACK NEXT. THE BOOM TUBES MAY NOT WORK MUCH LONGER.

EVERYTHING'S ***WRONG.*** EVERYTHING.

I CAN'T... THERE'S ***SOMETHING*** WRONG. SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.

SCOTT, WHAT-- THIS...THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS. YOU ***HAVE*** TO GET ACROSS.

I SEE THINGS... I DO THINGS... THINGS THAT AREN'T...

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ESCAPE THIS!

YOU'RE THE SON OF HIGHFATHER, THE SON OF GOD, HEIR TO HIS THRONE, RAISED BY HIS GREATEST ENEMY.

YOU MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US.

I CAN'T ESCAPE THIS.

SMACK

STAND.

BARDA...

STAND!

AND SO THE ACT GOES ON--

STANDING.

TO OTHER **SATANIC** AND **SINISTER** SITUATIONS SIMMERING WITH **MOUNTING MAGNITUDE** TO **JUGGERNAUT JOUSTS** WITH THE SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST'S **GREATEST** ADVERSARY--

FINE.

GOOD.

DEATH!

NOW COME.

HE WILL ALWAYS BE SECONDS AWAY--SWIFT! RELENTLESS! FINAL!

DARKSEID AWAITS.

FOLLOW MISTER MIRACLE!

ENTER THE NEXT TRAP--

...the face of God.

...to know...

You are not...

RRRGHGLKHLL--

HNGGHH?

GHHGGH?

GARROUUUF!!

KHAROOOOOO!

GHHGKKHHMKK.

NGHHRRAGGKK.

BZZOOM

DEATH LASHES OUT FOR... MISTER MIRACLE--

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST!

BUT IT IS NOT THE END, FRIEND!

WHAT LIES AHEAD IS EVEN MORE TO BE DREADED--

A TRAP SPRUNG BY A MIND NOT OF THIS EARTH--

THE TERRIBLE--

INESCAPABLE...

X-PIT!

ALSO--TO KNOW HER IS TO HATE HER--

GRANNY GOODNESS!

GENERAL FREE.

YES, ORION.

I AM NOT--THAT IS NOT--

...

WE HAVE ANOTHER INCURSION NEAR LONAR'S RANGE.

LEAD YOUR FORCES TO THE **MOLE MOUNTAINS OF GABRAR** AND ATTACK FROM THE WEST.

MOLE MOUTAINS OF GABRAR.

FROM THE WEST.

ALL RIGHT.

REPORT WHEN YOU HAVE OBTAINED VICTORY.

FURTHER ORDERS WILL THEN BE PROVIDED.

YES, ORION.

THANK YOU, ORION.

IT'S DONE.

ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, GENERAL.

THE **CROWNFALL FOREST** NOW, APPROACH FROM THE NORTH.

YES, ORION.

THE CROWNFALL FOREST.

FROM THE NORTH.

ARGHAHKKHAA!

YES, ORION.

THE FIELDS OF ARGANTON.

THROUGH THE PATH OF FLOWERS.

FOR NEW GENESIS!

AAAAAA!

YES, ORION.

GAWWWKK.

AAAGGH!

A HUGE FORCE REPORTED AT THE MADALA SKYLINE.

I NEED YOU THERE NOW.

FOR NEW GENESIS!

FOR NEW GENESIS!

INVASION FORCES ON THE HIGH SEAS OF CUMARTRA.

APPROACH FROM THE SOUTHEAST.

FOR NEW GENESIS!

YES, ORION.

THE FARSIDED RIDGES.

FOR NEW GENESIS!

FOR NEW GENESIS!

FOR NEW GENESIS!

HOW DOES THE SHOWER WORK?!

WHY WOULD I KNOW?!

THERE'S NO KNOBS OR...

IS THERE WATER?!

ASK YOUR MOTHER BOX!

HONEY, I'M IN THE--

I'M *NAKED!* MY MOTHER BOX IS BY THE BED!

CAN YOU ASK YOURS?!

MOTHER BOX. CAN YOU TURN ON THE SHOWER?

PLEASE.

OKAY, BIG BARDA!

HMM. CURRENT DATA INDICATES THE SHOWER IS ALREADY ON.

IT SAYS THE SHOWER'S ALREADY ON!

IT IS?

AM I CLEAN?

YOU GOT IT TO WORK?

I'M NOW THE NEW GOD OF SHOWERS.

EVERYONE HATES APOKOLIPS.

BUT AT LEAST THIS WAS EASY.

YOU'RE DIRTY?

YOU JUST WADE INTO THE EMBERLAKES.

YOU BURN, YEAH, AND THEN IF YOU SURVIVE...

...YOU'RE CLEAN.

YOU DON'T SURVIVE, Y'KNOW...

...WHO REALLY CARES?

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.

I'M TOO TALL.

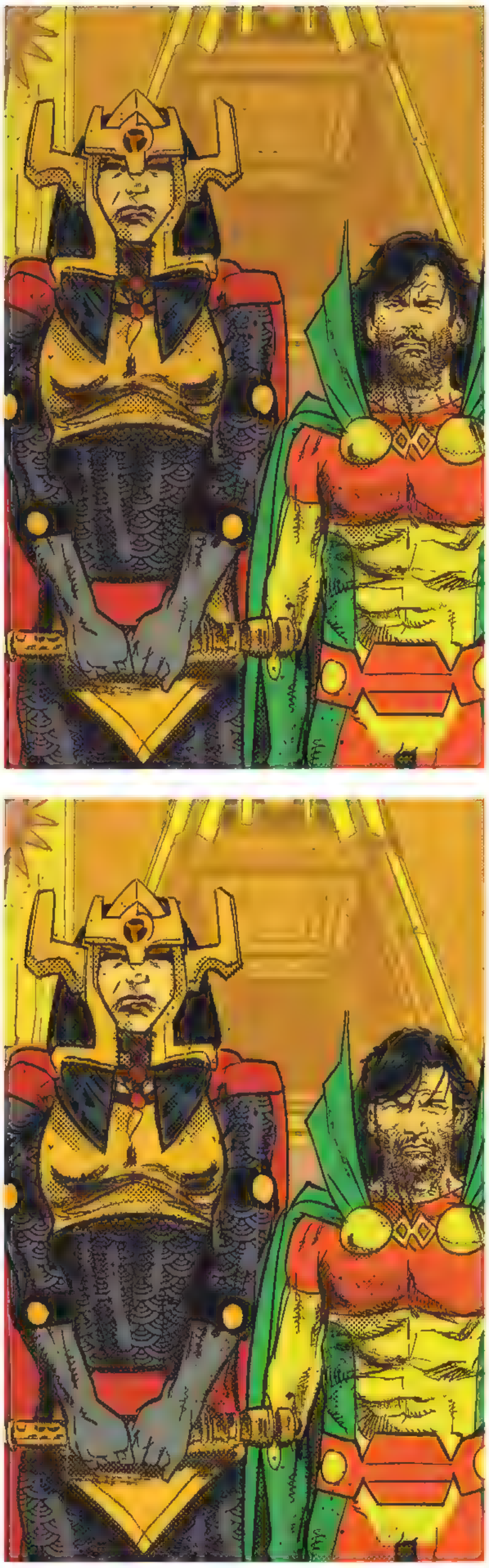
YOU'RE PERFECT.

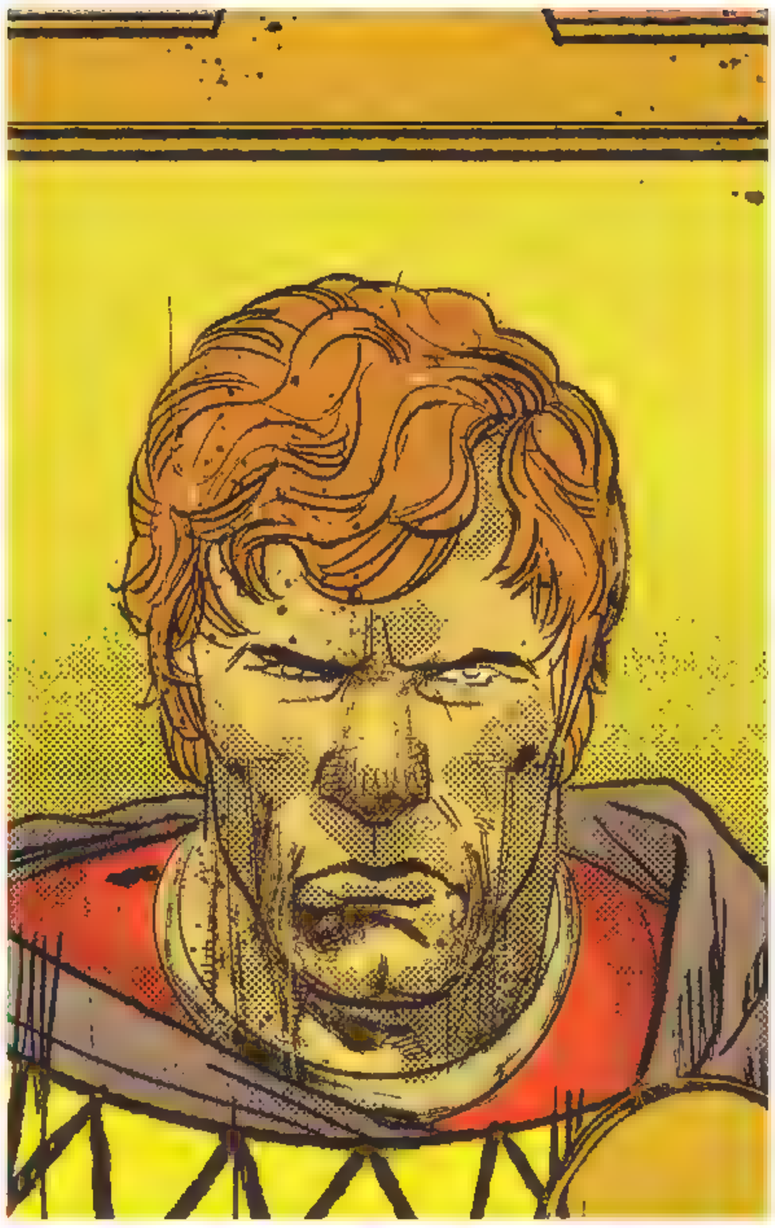
DID YOU LEAVE IT ON?

I DON'T KNOW.

I DIDN'T TURN IT OFF, IF THAT HELPS.

GENERAL FREE.
GENERAL BARDA.
HIGHFATHER.
ORION.
MY ***APOLOGIES,*** THIS IS MY FAULT. ENTIRELY.
IN ***LIGHT*** OF THE CURRENT EMERGENCY, THE COURT HAS REINSTATED SOME ***FORMALITIES*** THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ALLOWED TO LAPSE.
YOU UNDERSTAND. TO SHOW OUR ***DISCIPLINE*** TO OUR ENEMY.
SO NOW, ***OBVIOUSLY,*** WHEN GREETING THE HIGHFATHER, IT IS CUSTOMARY TO KNEEL.
OR RATHER, IT IS NOW, OBVIOUSLY, ***REQUIRED*** THAT YOU KNEEL.





IT IS A BLESSING WORTHY OF THE OLD GODS THAT YOU TWO HAVE COME NOW TO NEW GENESIS.

THIS IS OUR TIME OF NEED, AND WE ***NEED*** YOU.

AS ***HIGHFATHER OF NEW GENESIS,*** PLEASE ACCEPT MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE.

YES, HIGHFATHER.

THAT'S ***FINE.*** YOU DID GREAT. ***REALLY.***

YOU CAN STAND NOW.

OKAY.

I HAVE KEPT THIS QUIET. BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW...

...WHILE YOUR ARMIES HAVE FOUGHT AND WON IN THE WEST...

...DARKSEID'S FORCES IN THE EAST HAVE DEFEATED THREE OF OUR ADVANCES.

WE HAVE LOST OVER 250,000 TROOPS IN THE CAMPAIGN.

AND SEVEN OF OUR BROTHER GODS.

WHAT... TWO HUNDRED AND...

WHAT?

THE SUCCESS OF DARKSEID'S ARMIES HERE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THEIR FIELD COMMANDER.

A WOMAN YOU BOTH KNOW QUITE WELL.

"GRANNY GOODNESS"

TRYING TO EMULATE OUR FATHER, I TRIED TO KEEP EMOTION OUT OF MY BATTLE PLAN.

AND THUS I KEPT YOU TWO AWAY FROM GRANNY'S SOLDIERS.

I HAVE... RECONSIDERED THIS STRATEGY AND NOW FEEL THAT THE ANGER YOU MUST HOLD FOR THIS WOMAN--

--A WOMAN WHOSE TORTURE WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD--

--MAY IN FACT BE AN ADVANTAGE TO US.

GENERALS, YOUR ARMIES HAVE BEEN REASSIGNED TO LIGHTRAY'S COMMAND.

YOUR NEW ORDERS ARE TO FIND AND KILL GRANNY GOODNESS.

A PLAN HAS ALREADY BEEN PUT IN MOTION.

YOU LEAVE TOMORROW.

ZZGGKKHHH

ZZZCHLLARRGG

SCOTT FREE.

YOU ARE NOT TO KNOW THE FACE OF GOD.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, SCOTT FREE?!

YOU ARE NOT TO KNOW THE FACE OF GOD!

BARDA, HEY, BARDA...

NNNNN

BARDA, METRON'S HERE.

MMM. OH...

TELL HIM IT'S...LATE. MMM.

WE HAVE TO...BE UP... SO EARLY...

TO KILL... GRANNY...

YOU ARE NOT...

...TO KNOW...

...THE FACE OF GOD.

ZZGGKKHHH

YOU...

...ARE NOT TO KNOW...

MOTHER BOX, A BOOM TUBE TO GRANNY GOODNESS, PLEASE.

OKAY, BIG BARDA! I WILL HAVE THAT FOR YOU IN .4 SECONDS!

BOOM

BARDA, ALL THOSE YEARS IN THE...I DON'T KNOW. THE HURT OF IT. I KNOW.

I MEAN, DID YOU EVER LIKE HER?

ONCE, I REMEMBER, I MEAN--IN THE X-PIT, I WAS IN THE JUDAS CRADLE.

HANGING FOR DAYS. I'D SPILLED MY MILK AT BREAKFAST OR WHATEVER--

BUT THEN SHE CAME--I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN LONGER. MORE DAYS.

AND SHE CAME AND SHE--SHE CAME EARLY.

SHE TOOK ME DOWN.

SHE... I WAS DOWN AND SHE...

...HELD ME. I GUESS.

SHE HELD ME.

I DON'T KNOW.

NO, SCOTT.

BOOM

"I NEVER LIKED HER."

BOOM

MY BABIES!

OH, MY BABIES!

COME TO GRANNY.

LOOK AT YOU.
YOU'RE SO GROWN UP!
WHO LET YOU GROW UP?
AND SO HANDSOME.
HI, GRANNY.
AND YOU, YOUNG LADY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DARLING PIG-TAILED GIRL?
OH, YOUR CHEEKS WERE ALWAYS SO RED!
I'M...
I'M TOO TALL.
OH, DARLING.
DON'T YOU KNOW BY NOW?
EVERYONE'S TOO SOMETHING.
NOW, NOW. I KNOW YOUR NEW *HIGHFATHER* WANTS US TO RUSH, RUSH, RUSH TO OUR VERY IMPORTANT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
SUCH AN *IMPATIENT* MAN, THIS LEADER OF YOURS.
ALWAYS IN A HURRY. LIKE THE WORLDS BEAT TO HIS HEART.
TSK, TSK.
BUT BEFORE WE DO...
MY DARLINGS.
I MADE JELL-O.

I DO SO APPRECIATE YOU *WONDERFUL* CHILDREN COMING.

BUT I MUST SAY THAT I CANNOT SEE DARKSEID AGREEING TO *ANY* TERMS.

EXCEPT, OF COURSE, UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

AND THE DELIVERY OF ORION'S HEAD.

IN A BASKET. OR MAYBE A BUCKET.

WHATEVER YOU HAVE ON HAND.

NNNN

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SOMETHING SPECIAL.

THAT'S... *STORMFORGE?*

HE WAS...IS THAT HIM?

YES, DEAR, HE LED ONE OF YOUR ARMIES AGAINST ME. I'M STARVING HIM TO DEATH.

BUT I LIKE TO HAVE HIM WATCH OTHERS EAT. IT'S SO SILLY.

OH MY, I HOPE THAT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU. DOES IT?

I'M NOT BOTHERED, GRANNY.

I'M JUST HUNGRY.

REMEMBER THAT TIME I DIDN'T LET YOU HAVE WATER FOR TWO WEEKS, BARDA?

GOODNESS, YOU SCREAMED AND CRIED. LIKE A CHILD. BUT YOU WERE ALREADY *FOUR!*

"GRANNY, GRANNY, *PLEASE.*" YOU WERE ADORABLE! "PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE." HA!

HOW THE TIME GOES BY.

IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT RAISING CHILDREN.

"LONG DAYS.

"SHORT YEARS."

sneek

sneek

sneek

Fite Fite

Chok

JmP

runn

Tkle

trO

Kik Kik

Fite Fite

sneek

IS SHE--

SHHHH

GZZZAP

NO!

QUICKLY, SCOTT, DARLING! QUICKLY!

FOLLOW QUICKLY.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK BY THE DOOR.

WHO KNOWS WHO MAY LISTEN.

Darkseid is.

I'M SO SORRY, MY POOR, DEAR LITTLE BOY.

FOR SO MUCH.

I DON'T... UNDERSTAND.

THERE'S NO TIME TO UNDERSTAND, SCOTT!

JUST LISTEN!

DID METRON VISIT YOU LAST NIGHT?

NO. I MEAN--

YES, BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM.

GOOD, GOOD.

THERE'S SO MUCH YOU NEED TO KNOW.

NNN.

"ORION CONTACTED ME THIS MORNING."

I *HAD* TO WARN YOU. I CAN'T RISK WHAT MIGHT COME.

I SADLY BELIEVE SCOTT AND BARDA INTEND TO ***BREAK THE PEACE*** AT OUR CONFERENCE.

THEY CANNOT FORGIVE WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE ***YOUR...*** PAST SINS.

BE ALERT, *ORION* SAID. THEY'LL DO ANYTHING, HE SAID.

AND IF THEY DID ANYTHING, HE SAID...

"...I WAS TO *REPAY* THEIR BETRAYAL.

"AND SUCH ACTIONS, HE SAID, WOULD BE WITHOUT REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE HIGHFATHER.

HE WANTED ME TO *KILL* YOU, SCOTT.

MY OWN SWEET BOY!

"WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW, THOUGH...

"IS THAT I HAVE BEEN A LOYAL FRIEND TO THE HIGHFATHER, THE *REAL* HIGHFATHER.

"THE HIGHFATHER WHO MEANT FOR YOU, MY OWN CHILD, TO HAVE HIS THRONE.

"IT WAS ME!

"*I* WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM THAT DARKSEID HAS THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!

"I DID IT! I TRIED TO SAVE *YOU.*"

ME?

"I DON'T KNOW--ORION NOW, I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW. HIS POWER IS SO GREAT.

"WHO IS TRUE TO US? WHO IS TRUE AT ALL?

YOU, SCOTT! YOU! *MY* BOY!

I COULDN'T LET DARKSEID HURT MY OWN PRECIOUS BOY.

"EVEN BARDA. DOES SHE KNOW? DOES SHE UNDERSTAND THEIR *NEED,* SCOTT?

THE *PROPHECY,* SCOTT. IT'S THE PROPHECY THAT COMPELS THEM.

DARKSEID CAN ONLY DIE BY THE HANDS OF HIS OWN SON.

WHAT IS--WHY WOULD ***ORION***... BARDA...

THE PROPHECY? DARKSEID'S SON.

ORION IS DARKSEID'S SON.

IS HE, SCOTT?

IS HE?

OR ARE YOU?

BLDDDG

AAAA!

AAAGG!

BLDDDG

NNNGG

*HOLD IT, **DEAR READER!** WE'RE NOT DONE WITH YOU **YET!***

BKNCH

IT IS SAID THAT THE ULTIMATE TRAP--IS THE SIMPLEST TRAP!

MOTHER BOX.

WE NEED A BOOM TUBE TO NEW GENESIS.

AND WHAT COULD BE MORE SIMPLE--

OKAY, BIG BARDA!

IT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN .4 SECONDS.

--THAN ENTERING AND LEAVING A BUILDING?

BOOM

FOR MISTER MIRACLE, THIS COULD MEAN DEFEAT AND DEATH!

YOU'LL BE MAD ABOUT HIS NEW EXPLOIT--

IF YOU SWALLOW--

"THE PARANOID PILL!"

Nick Derington

Merry Christmas.

"REMEMBER THAT STORY GRANNY ALWAYS TOLD? AT NIGHT.

"WHEN YOU COULDN'T SLEEP."

DIG IT UP.

"THE CHRISTMAS STORY."

NOW.

"NO, SCOTT.

"SHE DIDN'T TELL ME STORIES."

OH.

"WELL, CAN I TELL IT TO YOU THEN?

"I HAVE IT IN MY HEAD.

"I HAVE TO GET THINGS OUT OF MY HEAD."

SCOT?

DARLING, PLEASE.

"IT'S TOO LATE FOR STORIES.

"IT'LL JUST DRIVE YOU CRAZY.

"YOU NEED TO SLEEP."

"OKAY. YEAH.

"YOU'RE RIGHT.

"SORRY."

"THIS IS ON EARTH. BEFORE CHRISTMAS. IN THE NETHERLANDS

"IN 1942 OR SOMETHING. WHEN THE GERMANS HAD IT.

"A LITTLE BOY. I DON'T KNOW. CALL HIM WHATEVER.

"SVEN.

"SVEN'S IN SCHOOL. A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL. OR CATHOLIC. WHATEVER.

"WITH NUNS AND THE WHOLE THING.

"AND IT'S RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS. AND THE TEACHER'S TELLING THEM ABOUT JESUS.

"AND SHE'S TALKING ABOUT MARY AND JOSEPH AND THE MANGER.

"HOW THEY COULDN'T FIND ANYWHERE SAFE. TO HAVE THE BABY.

"AND SHE MENTIONS THAT MARY AND JOSEPH WERE JEWS.

"AND SVEN, THE KID, HE STARTS TALKING. HE'S, Y'KNOW, FIVE OR WHATEVER.

"AND HE SAYS, 'THEY COULD COME TO OUR BASEMENT!'

"AND THE NUN WHO'S TEACHING JUST STOPS.

"JUST FROZEN. HEARING THIS. LOOKING AT THIS KID.

"AT SVEN."

"SO THEN LATER THE POLICE CAME TO SVEN'S HOUSE

"THEY FOUND A FAMILY IN THE BASEMENT.

"JEWISH. Y'KNOW. OBVIOUSLY.

"THEY TOOK SVEN'S FATHER AND HIS OLDER BROTHER OUT INTO THE TREES BY HIS HOUSE.

"AND THEY SHOT THEM.

"SVEN AND HIS MOM AND HIS THREE SISTERS ENDED UP IN A WORK CAMP.

"FOR A WHILE, ONE OF HIS SISTERS DIED THERE.

"EVENTUALLY HE WENT TO THE SHOWERS AT BUCHENWALD.

"SVEN GOT TRANSFERRED A FEW MORE TIMES. EAST.

"HE DIDN'T SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS MOTHER. OR THE OTHER SISTERS.

"AFTER--HE WAS OLDER. IT HAD BEEN A FEW YEARS.

"HE WAS SEVEN OR SOMETHING.

"NO, HE DIED IN THE PILE, BENEATH THE PILE OF PEOPLE TRYING TO GET OUT.

"BUT THE GAS DIDN'T KILL HIM.

"NO.

"WHEN THEY LET THE GAS IN, AND EVERYONE WAS CLIMBING.

"EACH OTHER. ON EACH OTHER. MAKING A PILE.

"SVEN WAS AT THE BOTTOM."

"SO, YEAH. GRANNY, SHE'D TELL THAT STORY

AND THEN SHE'D SAY--

--MERRY CHRISTMAS.

IT'S DR. BEDLAM CALLING!

AND HE'S GOING TO SPRING A TRAP THAT IS AS SIMPLE AND FOOLPROOF AND SINISTER AS HIS OWN EXISTENCE!

READ WHAT LIES IN STORE FOR--

SCOTT FREE.

MISTER MIRACLE!

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST!

OPEN THE DOOR OF TERROR!!

AND DROP THE PARANOID PILL!

TAP

TAP

NO TRAP CAN HOLD

ORION DOESN'T KNOW I'M HERE.

THANK GOD.

I'M ON LEAVE.

FROM THE WAR.

HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?

YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, ***FORAGER.*** WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU STILL GOT TO MAKE A LIVING.

I GOT A SHOW IN THE MORNING.

BREAKING OUT OF SOMETHING?

YEAH.

CAN I HELP YOU SOMEHOW?

YOU WANT A DRINK OR SOMETHING?

SIX-AND-A-HALF MILLION OF MY PEOPLE, ***THE BUGS,*** HAVE ALREADY DIED IN THIS WAR.

FIGHTING FOR ***YOUR*** PEOPLE.

ORION ORDERED THEIR DEATHS. PURPOSELY ORDERED THEM TO DIE ***BEFORE*** THE GODS.

I NEED MORE MILK.

NOW THAT ***GRANNY'S*** BEEN DEFEATED, ORION WANTS TO LEAD US TO APOKOLIPS.

GO ON THE ***OFFENSIVE.*** TAKE OUT DARKSEID. RIGHT.

AND, OF COURSE, THE BUGS WILL BE UP FRONT AGAIN--***CANNON FODDER*** FOR THE GODS.

AND THAT'LL BE ***TRIPLE*** THE NUMBER WE'VE ***ALREADY*** SACRIFICED.

AND WHAT, WHAT DO WE GET? AT SOME POINT IT'S ***YOUR*** VICTORY, ***OUR*** BLOOD.

I'M NOT SAYING WE DON'T GO AFTER DARKSEID. DARKSEID IS.

BUT THERE'S ***A LIMIT*** TO WHAT THIS POPULATION CAN TAKE RIGHT NOW.

AND ***ORION.*** HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND--SEEM TO UNDERSTAND ***LIMITS.***

MISSING

I DON'T KNOW, FORAGER--

--HAVE YOU TALKED TO HIM?

WE... WE SENT OUR QUEEN.

MAY SHE EVER BREED.

AND HE HAD HER...

SHE WAS EXECUTED. HE ***EXECUTED*** HER. FOR TREASON.

HER HEAD HANGS WITH GRANNY.

NO.

I WOULD'VE HEARD.

SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TOLD ME.

I'M TELLING YOU.

WHAT--

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

AS A ***GENERAL,*** YOU WERE ADMIRED BY THE BUGS IN YOUR COMMAND.

THEY SPEAK OF YOUR ***RESPECT*** FOR ***ALL*** THE SERVANTS OF NEW GENESIS.

OF ALL THE GENERALS, YOU HAD THE ***LEAST*** BUG CASUALTIES IN YOUR ARMIES.

FORAGER, LOOK--

GENERAL FREE. ***MISTER MIRACLE.***

THE BUGS WILL ***NO LONGER*** FOLLOW ORION INTO THIS WAR.

WE WILL FOLLOW ***YOU.***

WHEREVER YOU WILL TAKE US.

C'MON. YOU THINK I MATTER?

IF YOU FOLLOW ME, YOU'RE FOLLOWING ORION.

IF WE'RE FOLLOWING YOU...

...ORION IS ***DEAD.***

BOOOM

FORAGER!

NO.

BY ORDERS OF THE HIGHFATHER.

MISTER MIRACLE!

AAAAA!!!

ZGAAP

ZGAAP

JESUS.

JESUS.

MOTHERBOX, A BOOM TUBE TO NEW GENESIS. PLEASE.

LIGHTRAY...

WHAT HE SAID. ORION FIGHTING THAT WAY.

IS IT TRUE?

THE BUG WAS ***SPECIFICALLY*** INSTRUCTED ***NOT*** TO SPEAK TO YOU.

HE ***VIOLATED*** THAT INSTRUCTION.

HE ***ACCEPTED*** THE CONSEQUENCES.

YEAH. I GET IT.

BUT WAS IT ***TRUE?***

DON'T BE STUPID, SCOTT.

BOOOM

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

YOU MISSED FORAGER.

AND LIGHTRAY.

I LOVE YOU.

Darkseid is.

DARKSEID IS.

EVERYONE SAYS THAT.

BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I BET IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

PEOPLE JUST THINK IT SOUNDS COOL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

IT'S THE MOMENT WE'VE ALL BEEN DREADING!

WHAT YOU SEE NOW IS NOT A SUPERHERO ABOUT TO TAKE FLIGHT!

THIS IS NOT AN ALIEN WITH A MAGIC SCIENCE FICTION WAND!

SO NOW, EVERYONE WATCHING, BOTH HERE AND AT HOME!

NO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

WHAT YOU HAVE HERE IS MUCH MORE MIRACULOUS THAN ALL THAT!

THIS IS BUT A MAN.

I NEED YOU TO COUNT WITH ME!

ARE YOU READY?!?

THREE!

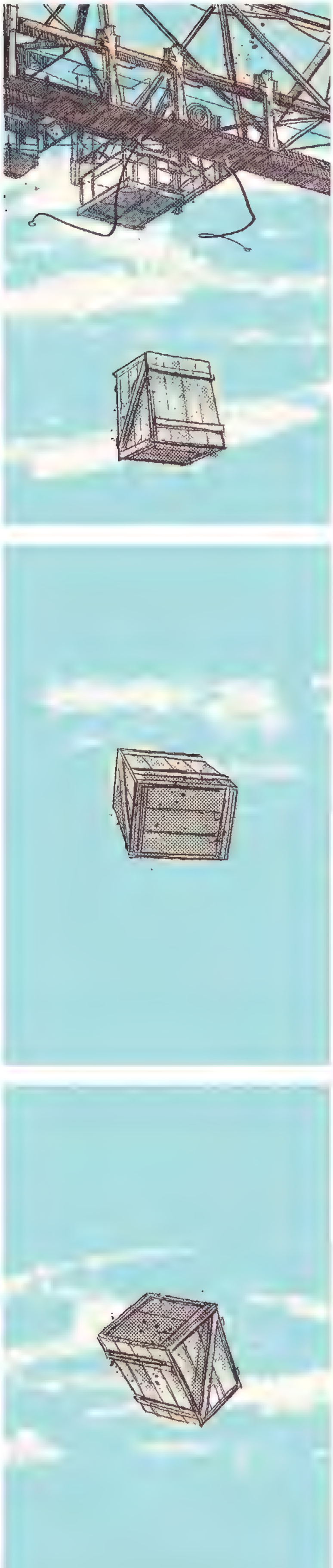
TWO!

ONE!

THREE!

TWO!

ONE!



KCRASHHH

ORION WANTS US BACK EARLY.

OKAY.

HE CALLED WHEN YOU WERE PERFORMING.

IT'S NOT PERFORMING.

IT'S ESCAPING. I'M ***ACTUALLY*** ESCAPING.

IT'S NOT A TRICK.

SCOTT, WHO ARE YOU ARGUING WITH?

I KNOW WHAT YOU DO.

HE'S INVADING?

YEAH, HE SAID DARKSEID STOPPED THE INVASION BECAUSE HE'S WEAK.

SO THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY. AND WE'LL EACH HAVE OUR OWN ARMIES. AGAIN.

IT WAS ALL VERY ORION.

I HAVE TO TALK TO HIM.

SCOTT.

HONEY...

AFTER HIGHFATHER AND WHAT GRANNY SAID.

AND YOU'VE SEEN HIM...AND... METRON...AND...

...AND NOW FORAGER.

SCOTT...

PLEASE...

I KNOW, HONEY. AND WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THAT. TOGETHER.

I PROMISE. ***AFTER*** THE WAR.

I KNOW.

I WAS TRYING...I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY.

IT ***COULD*** BE THAT. I'M NOT STUPID. IT'S REALLY...

SOMETIMES, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ***REAL.***

THERE'S SOMETHING ***WRONG*** WITH ME.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT...WHAT I DID...

IT'S... I WAS TRYING TO ***ESCAPE.***

WELL, THAT'S EASY, DARLING.

I'M REAL.

HE HAS TO KNOW.
HE'LL BE MAD, BUT--
OH MY GOD!
I'M SORRY, BUT HI!
I SAW YOUR SHOW. AT THE CRANE. LIKE ON TV.
I LOVED IT, I MEAN. I DON'T KNOW, I'M SO NERVOUS.
CAN I GET A SELFIE?
SURE, OF COURSE. THANK YOU.
YOU WANT, UH, SHE CAN TAKE IT.
WELL, CAN WE DO ALL OF US MAYBE?
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
LIKE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, I **LOVE** BIG BARDA!
DOESN'T EVERYONE?
MISTER MIRACLE!
OH MY GOD!
DID WE GET IT?

Tessajane37
Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles

AND NOW!
FUNKY FLASHMAN PROUDLY PRESENTS:
THE X-PIT EXECUTIONER!
THE GRANNY GOODNESS GUTTER!
EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ESCAPE ARTIST!
SENSATIONAL SCOTT FREE!
MISTER MIRACLE!
THAT'S YOUR CUE, KID.
GET OUT THERE AND WOW 'EM!
CLEAR THE ROOM.
I WILL TALK TO GENERAL FREE ALONE.

WHERE IS GENERAL BARDA?

SHE'S PREPPING HER ARMY.

SHOULDN'T YOU BE ***PREPARING*** YOUR ARMY?

ORION.

FATHER SAID THAT HE-- DARKSEID HAS THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.

OKAY, AND, I'VE BEEN...

I THINK IT MAY BE INSIDE ***ME.*** MAYBE IT MADE ME... ***CUT*** MYSELF...

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW. WANT TO KNOW.

I'M NOT TRYING TO SAY ANYTHING. OKAY? I'M NOT.

BUT DO YOU KNOW?

HAVE YOU... I MEAN....

ORION, I GUESS, DO YOU-- IS IT INSIDE OF YOU, TOO?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE FACE OF GOD?

KPOW

ORION...

POWW

I ASKED YOU A QUESTION, GENERAL.

PPOWW

I THINK, AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

...YOU WOULD HAVE THE ***COURTESY*** TO RESPOND TO YOUR HIGHFATHER.

JUST...

STOP FOR...A SECOND.

STOP... I...

...WHAT ARE...

DO I NEED TO REPEAT MYSELF, GENERAL?

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME?

I CAN SAY IT LOUDER.

PPOWW

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE FACE OF GOD!?!

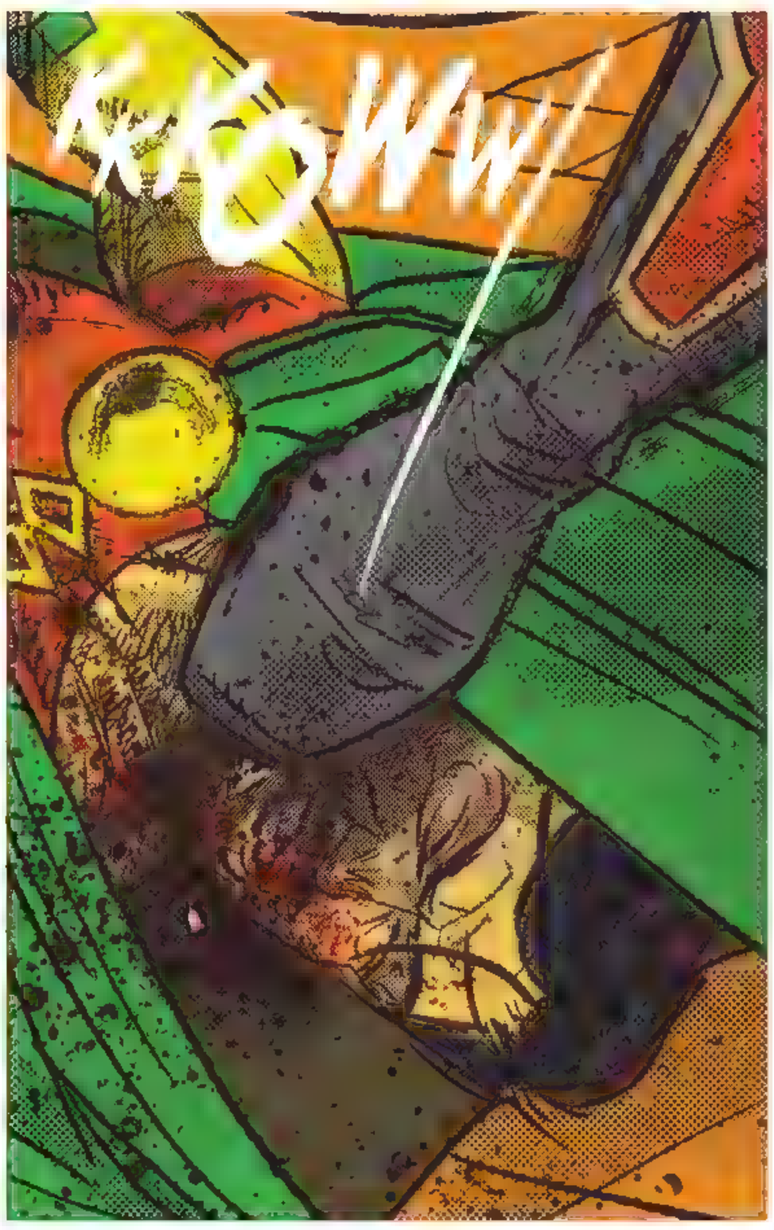
I DON'T...

KRAK
W

SMASH

SMASH

I HAVE, SCOTT.
I HAVE WITNESSED THE DIVINE.


KRAKOW!!

IT HELPED ME, BROTHER.
IT WILL HELP YOU.

LOOK AT ME, BROTHER.
YOU'RE NOT...MY...
BROTHER...

SEE ME.

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

IS IT TRUE?

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

HAS DR. BEDLAM, WITH THE AID OF THE PARANOID PILL, DEVISED THE PERFECT TRAP FOR MISTER MIRACLE?

IT WOULD SEEM SO!

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

THIS IS THE FACE OF GOD.

BUT ONE CAN NEVER BE CERTAIN WHEN DEALING WITH A SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST!

WATCH FOR THE NEXT SENSATIONAL ISSUE OF MISTER MIRACLE!

AS HE PREPARES FOR--

--THE CLOSING JAWS OF DEATH!

I don't know.

BUT SCOTT FREE HAS ALREADY DEALT WITH DOCTOR BEDLAM!

BOOM

THAT'S WHY SCOTT IS JAMMED IN A HEAVILY BOUND TRUNK!

VICTIM OF THE MOST BIZARRE TRAP EVER CONCEIVED BY EVIL DESIGN!

GODDAMMIT.

OF COURSE, FROM THE CUTAWAY BELOW IT WOULD SEEM THE DANGER IS NEGLIGIBLE!

LESSER ESCAPE ARTISTS HAVE BEEN TRUSSED THIS WAY WITHOUT ELICITING FEAR!

WALK AWAY.

BARDA...

AND SCOTT FREE IS MISTER MIRACLE!

WALK. AWAY.

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST.

I AM HERE AS THE VOICE OF HIGHFATHER.

WELL, JUST HOLD ON TO YOUR HACKLES, CATS!

I CANNOT LEAVE UNTIL I HAVE SPOKEN.

CONTINUE ON!

LIGHTRAY, DARLING, IF YOU DON'T WALK AWAY...

...WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT IS I'M GOING TO SHOVE MY COSMIC ROD UP YOUR ASS.

AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT AN UNCOMMON AND DEADLY TRAP THIS REALLY IS!

THEN YOU'RE GOING TO TURN AROUND.

AND LIMP AWAY.

HEY, LIGHTRAY, SORRY. I WAS RESTING.

YOU WANT SOME COFFEE OR SOMETHING?

GENERAL FREE!

IT IS NOW DECLARED THAT YOU ARE AN AGENT OF ***DARKSEID!***

AN ENEMY OF THE FREE AND PROUD PEOPLE OF NEW GENESIS!

I'M GOING TO GET SOME COFFEE.

YOU BASTARD!

POW

AS A MEMBER OF THE HIGHFAMILY, ***GENERAL FREE,*** YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

EXECUTION OR TRIAL.

LIGHTRAY. ***GODDAMMIT!***

SCOTT'S NOT AN AGENT OF DARKSEID!

TRIAL.

I am God.

GET OUT OF MY HOME!

YOU MAY CHOOSE THE LOCATION OF YOUR TRIAL.

CAN WE JUST DO IT HERE? I GOT A SHOW TOMORROW.

I am God.

AND THEN I GOT EQUIPMENT BEING DELIVERED THIS WEEK.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT'S NOT JUST SITTING BY THE DOOR.

A TRIAL. HERE.

AS IS YOUR PRIVILEGE, GENERAL.

THANK YOU.

@

POW

POW

YOU LITTLE #$%#.

SAY IT AGAIN!

SAY IT AGAIN!

HOW MANY DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE?

I DON'T KNOW.

ORION, LIGHTRAY, SECURITY GUY PROBABLY.

I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT MR. PRESIDENT TODAY.

WHO KNOWS?

HAHAHAHAHAH

WE SHOULD GO TO THE STORE.

AT LEAST PICK UP A VEGGIE TRAY.

I THINK THEY'VE HEARD. YEAH, YEAH.

SO, THE PRESIDENT'S GOT HIMSELF INTO QUITE A TIGHT BIND.

TIGHT. BIND.

YES, INDEED.

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE...

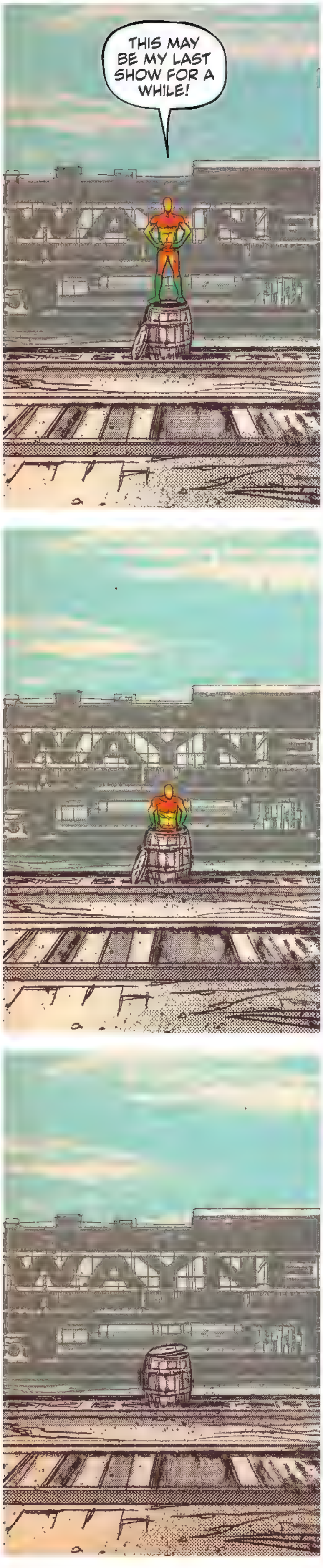
...HE DOESN'T NEED A MIRACLE...

HE NEEDS *MISTER MIRACLE!*

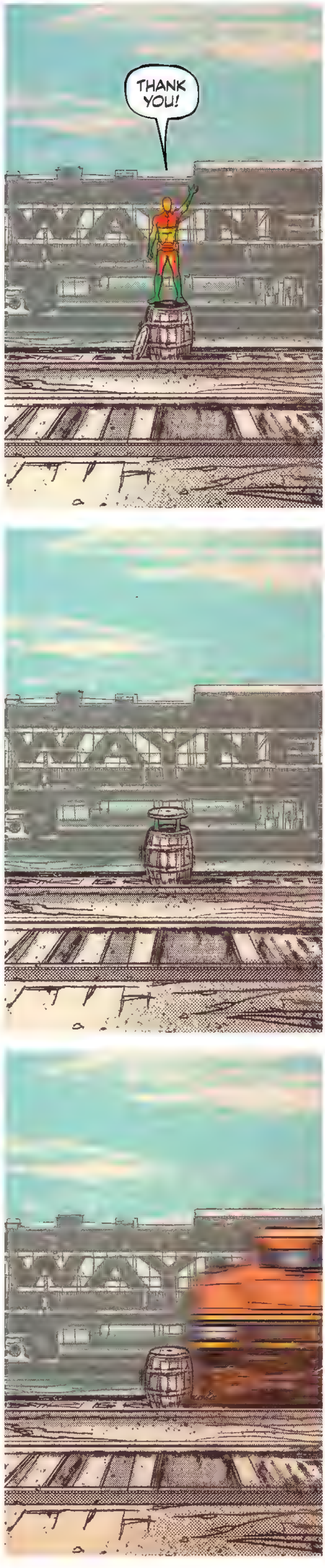
Darkseid is.

I DREW GOD.

BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT GOD LOOKS LIKE...


THIS MAY BE MY LAST SHOW FOR A WHILE!

I JUST WANT TO SAY, THANK YOU!
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME!
I COULDN'T BE MORE GRATEFUL.


THANK YOU!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

WE GOT A VEGGIE TRAY.

SIT.

SHOULD I SIT OR STAND?

SITTING.

GOOD.

THE AUDIENCE MAY ALSO BE SEATED.

THOUGH THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.

HE CHEATS DEATH! HE DEFIES MAN! NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!

MISTER MIRACLE

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST

THIS SOFA IS INADEQUATE.

OH, SHUT THE %$#@ UP, LIGHTRAY.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY AT THIS POINT THAT THOUGH WE ARE GODS...

EVEN GODS ARE BOUND BY THE LAWS OF THE SOURCE.

DO YOU NOT AGREE, GENERAL?

WE'RE ALL BOUND BY SOMETHING.

YES...

YES, EXACTLY THIS.

AND THE LAWS OF THE SOURCE DICTATE THAT IN A TRIAL OF A GOD...

GIVEN THESE LAWS...

...THE HIGHFATHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING THE ACCUSER, THE DEFENDER, THE JUDGE.

...I APPOINT MYSELF TO THE POSITIONS OF ACCUSER, DEFENDER AND JUDGE.

TO DO OTHERWISE I BELIEVE WOULD DEFY THE WISDOM OF THE HIGHFATHER.

OR ***DENY*** THE WISDOM.

AS I AM KEEPER OF THIS SACRED TITLE--

--THE NAME OUR FATHER WORE TO HIS DEATH--

--I CANNOT ALLOW THAT OTHERS' JUDGMENTS REIGN OVER THAT OF THE HIGHFATHER.

NOT WITHOUT OFFENDING OUR FATHER.

AND SO I MUST SAY THAT IN THIS MATTER, MY JUDGMENT SHALL REIGN.

AS HIS DID OVER ME.

SHALL WE BEGIN?

I'M GOING TO GET A CARROT.

OKAY.

AS WE ARE ALL AWARE, DARKSEID HAS ACQUIRED THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.

WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD OFF HIS ARMIES, BUT THE WAR CONTINUES.

I WOULD ***SUGGEST*** AT THIS POINT THE WAR CONTINUES IN OUR OWN MINDS.

IN THE MINDS OF OUR OWN GODS.

JESUS, ORION.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

BIG BARDA, YOUR HUSBAND IS ON TRIAL FOR TREASON AGAINST GODS.

WE ARE HERE TO DECIDE HIS LIFE.

DO I NEED TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE?

I'M JUST...

BARDA...

FINE.

EVERY--

EVERY STATEMENT. IS EITHER TRUE OR FALSE.

IF IT WEREN'T, IT WOULDN'T BE A STATEMENT.

GENERAL FREE, I'M GOING TO LIST A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS.

YOU WILL IDENTIFY THE STATEMENTS AS EITHER TRUE OR FALSE.

IF DARKSEID IS MANIPULATING YOU THROUGH THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION...

...YOU WILL FIND THAT STATEMENTS THAT ARE TRUE TO ***YOU*** ARE, IN FACT, FALSE.

BY SEEING IF YOU MISIDENTIFY SUCH STATEMENTS--

--WE WILL BE ABLE TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE IDENTITY.

NOW, I AM INTERESTED HERE IN YOUR BELIEFS.

I AM NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR DOUBTS.

THERE WILL BE NO *"I DON'T KNOW"* OR *"IT DEPENDS."*

IT IS NOT JUST TO JUDGE YOU ON WHAT YOU ARE UNAWARE OF, OR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS CONTINGENT.

FOR THOSE THINGS ARE NOT YOU.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE TO BE TRUE.

OR FALSE.

WE BEGIN.

YOU CONFESSED YOU BELIEVED DARKSEID HAD INFECTED YOU WITH THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU THEN ACCUSED THE HIGHFATHER OF BEING SIMILARLY INFECTED.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

THE HIGHFATHER IS AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

I DON'T KNOW.

AGAIN, YOUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE WILL NOT SAVE OR CONDEMN YOU.

ONLY YOUR BELIEFS CAN.

WHAT...

ORION, C'MON, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?

GENERAL, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ***BELIEVE.***

TRUE OR FALSE?

I... DON'T...

YEAH, FINE, I KNOW WHAT I BELIEVE. WHATEVER. TRUE.

THEN. AGAIN. WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

THE HIGHFATHER IS AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE, I DON'T KNOW.

MAYBE TRUE.

THE HIGHFATHER IS AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

I AM AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

TRUE.

YOU ARE AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE.

NOW.

AN AGENT OF DARKSEID WOULD DENY HE WAS SUCH AN AGENT.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

AN AGENT OF DARKSEID WOULD ALSO ACCUSE THE HIGHFATHER OF BEING AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HAVE MADE BOTH OF THESE STATEMENTS TODAY.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

NOW, AN AGENT OF DARKSEID WOULD NOT NECESSARILY KNOW HE WAS AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

THEREFORE, YOU COULD BE AN AGENT OF DARKSEID.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU KILLED GRANNY GOODNESS.

TRUE OR FALSE?

FALSE.

BIG BARDA KILLED GRANNY GOODNESS WHEN ***YOU*** DEFIED MY ORDERS.

TRUE OR FALSE?

YOU SAW LIGHTRAY KILL FORAGER. HERE, IN THIS ROOM.

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

TRUE.

FORAGER DESERVED TO DIE.

TRUE OR FALSE?

I DON'T KNOW.

FOR THE LAST TIME! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU KNOW!

I CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU BELIEVE!

I...

DING DING

DING DING

THAT'S THE DOOR.

ONE SECOND.

MISTER MIRACLE

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST

DELIVERY.

I THINK IT'S A MICROPHONE.

FOR THE MACHINE.

CLUNK

ORION...

...THIS, YOU, ALL OF THIS...

...IS IT A TRAP?

GENERAL, I AM ***HIGHFATHER,*** SHEPHERD OF THE GODS.

AND YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS SUCH.

I ESCAPE.

FROM TRAPS.

SAY "GO," ***SCOTT.***

AND WE GO.

YES, GENERAL.

SAY "GO."

OF COURSE IT'S A TRAP.

EVERYTHING'S A TRAP.

WE'RE ALL BOUND.

REMEMBER, ***SCOTT FREE?***

WE'RE ALL BOUND TO SOMETHING.

SCOTT--

MY NAME IS NOT SCOTT FREE.

THAT'S JUST WHAT GRANNY CALLED ME. WHEN I WAS LITTLE.

'CAUSE I KEPT GETTING OUT AND RUNNING WHEN SHE...AFTER SHE'D HURT ME.

SHE'D CAPTURE ME AGAIN AND SHE'D LAUGH AND CALL ME "SCOTT FREE."

AND MY NAME'S NOT "MISTER MIRACLE."

THAT'S THE NAME OF A PERFORMER, A GUY I MET HERE. ON EARTH.

WHEN HE DIED, I TOOK HIS UNIFORM, HIS GIG. HIS NAME.

EVEN OBERON. OBERON WAS JUST FROM THAT GUY.

MY REAL NAME...I... I DON'T KNOW. I SHOULD'VE ASKED FATHER.

I WAS YOUNG WHEN HE GAVE ME TO DARKSEID.

BUT I WAS BORN HERE. I MUST HAVE HAD A NAME.

BUT I DIDN'T ASK HIM.

I DON'T KNOW WHY.

AND NOW HE'S...

WHY DIDN'T HE JUST...

...HE COULD'VE GIVEN ME A NAME.

I SEE. YOU HATE OUR FATHER.

I...

YOU HATE OUR FATHER. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE. FINE.

YOU HATE ME. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HATE NEW GENESIS. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HATE APOKOLIPS. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HATE YOUR CAREER. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HATE YOUR CHILDHOOD. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HATE YOUR LIFE. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HATE YOURSELF. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

YOU HATE GOD. TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE.

RIGHT NOW, ALL YOU FEEL IS HATE.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

HATE MADE YOU DOUBT MY REIGN AS HIGHFATHER.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

HATE MADE YOU ACCUSE ME OF TREASON.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

HATE MADE YOU DOUBT EVERYTHING.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

HATE DROVE YOU TO ESCAPE EVERYTHING.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

HATE MADE YOU KILL YOURSELF.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

YOU ARE HATE.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION IS HATE.
TRUE OR FALSE?
TRUE.

YOU ARE THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.
TRUE OR FALSE?
I...

POW

AAAAAAA!

AAAAAA!

AAAAAA!

AAAAAA!

AAAAAA!

SCOTT, SCOTT.

SCOTT...

AAA. AAA. AAA.

SCOTT FREE...

SHHHH

SHHHHHHH

NNN

JESUS.

GUILTY.

YOU ARE ***JUDGED*** GUILTY.

AS I CANNOT CONTAIN YOU, ***MISTER MIRACLE...***

YOU WILL REPORT TO MY THRONE IN THREE DAYS.

WHERE I WILL PERFORM YOUR EXECUTION.

BIG BARDA!

BOLD, BARBARIC AND STILL QUITE A PROBLEM AS HER STORY UNFOLDS!

AND WHY NOT?!?

DOESN'T SHE COME FROM APOKOLIPS, WHERE HOLOCAUST IS A HOUSEHOLD WORD!?

ISN'T SHE BAIT FOR THE NEXT OVERWHELMING, MIND-SHATTERING TRAP WAITING FOR...

BOOM

MISTER MIRACLE!

YOU BET SHE IS!!

I CAN'T...

I KNOW.

You said you can escape anything.

"YOU COULD ASK ME, Y'KNOW, TO STAY.

"I'D FIGHT

"I'D KILL ORION.

"JUST SAY "STAY"

"I GO TO WAR.

"I SWEAR.

"I CAN'T, SCOTT. I TOLD YOU.

"I CAN'T BE THAT.

"IT'S YOURS. THIS LIFE, IT'S YOURS. YOU CHOOSE, IF YOU WANT TO--

"I'M NOT YOUR WAY OUT.

"NOW, C'MON, SCOTT, ENOUGH. TOMORROW'S YOUR LAST DAY.

"ALL I CAN BE IS YOUR WIFE.

"WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?"

HEY, TRUE BELIEVERS!

YOU DON'T MIND IF *FUNKY FLASHMAN* RIDES WITH YOU?!

OF COURSE NOT!

THINGS *COULDN'T* BE BETTER! WORKING NOW WITH *NEW GENIUS!* DOING *PR!*

WHAT AN *HONOR,* WORKING WITH *HIGHFATHER,* THE WHOLE *NEW GODS* CREW!

PRESENTING *THEM* TO *EARTH?!* WHAT AN *HONOR!* WE'RE MAKING *HISTORY!*

BUT! I HAVE TO SAY WE'VE GOT ONE *BIG* OLD PROBLEM RIGHT *HERE!*

I MEAN, SCOTT, YOU'RE *VERY* POPULAR!

LET'S FACE IT, YOU'RE *MISTER MIRACLE!*

AND NOW *YOU'VE* BEEN SENTENCED TO *DEATH!*

TOMORROW YOU'RE GOING *HOME* TO BE *EXECUTED!*

HOW IS *THAT* GOING TO *PLAY?!*

THE NEW GODS ARE MAKING *REAL* PROGRESS IN THEIR REPUTATION ON *EARTH!*

AND THEN THEY'RE GOING TO *KILL* THEIR MOST *POPULAR* GOD! *CRAZY!*

YOU'RE *VERY* POPULAR!

THE NEW GODS NEED *EARTH!* THEY NEED EARTH TO *LIKE* THEM!

I KEEP *SAYING* THIS!

YOU'RE FIGHTING *DARKSEID,* YOU NEED *EVERYONE* TO LIKE YOU!

ALL RIGHT! SO THAT'S THE PROBLEM!
AND NOW, HOW DO WE TURN THIS PROBLEM INTO A SOLUTION?!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT FUNKY IS FOR!
SO THE ANGLE WE'RE GOING TO TAKE IS...
SUICIDE!
YOU'RE ON THE RECORD SAYING YOU TRIED TO ESCAPE DEATH!
TRIED! BY KILLING YOURSELF!
SO WE JUST LEAN INTO THAT!
GET! THIS! WE GO HUGE! YOU'RE GOING BACK INTO IT!
DEATH! YOU DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO BEAT THE BEAST LAST TIME!
BECAUSE BIG BARBARA SAVED YOU!
SO NOW YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN!
AND THIS TIME...NO ONE SAVES YOU!
YOU'RE DEAD!
SEE, THAT WAY, YOU GET EXECUTED!
AND EVERYBODY WINS!
THEN YOU ESCAPE! OR YOU DON'T ESCAPE!
THAT'S UP TO YOU!

BUT DESTINY IS ON THE MOVE WITH EVEN STRANGER EVENTS!!!

FOR THERE ARE OTHER ARRIVALS FROM THE DREAD AND DISMAL WORLD OF APOKOLIPS!!!

CREATURES OF POWER!

DEDICATED TO DESTRUCTION!

AND VENGEFUL TO A LETHAL DEGREE NEVER BEFORE SEEN ON EARTH!!

THEIR OBJECTIVE IS SIMPLE--AND YET, COMPLEX!!!

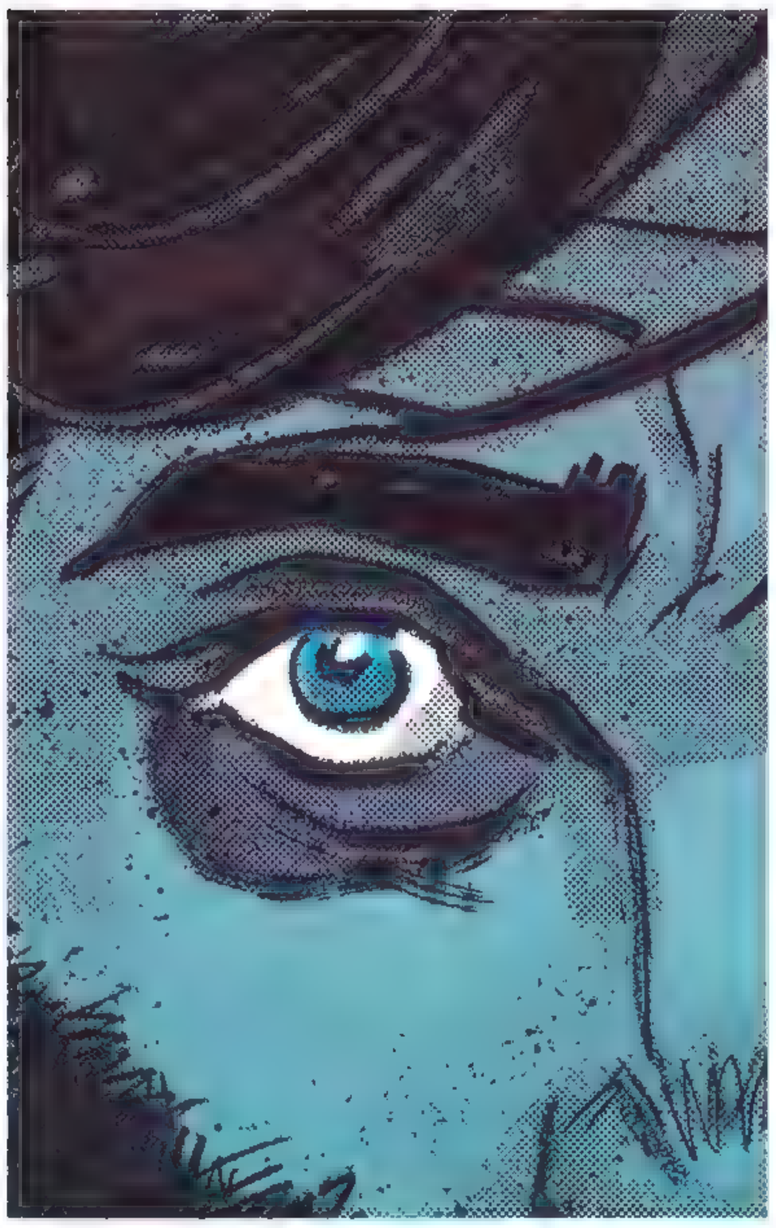
THEIR ORDERS READ--

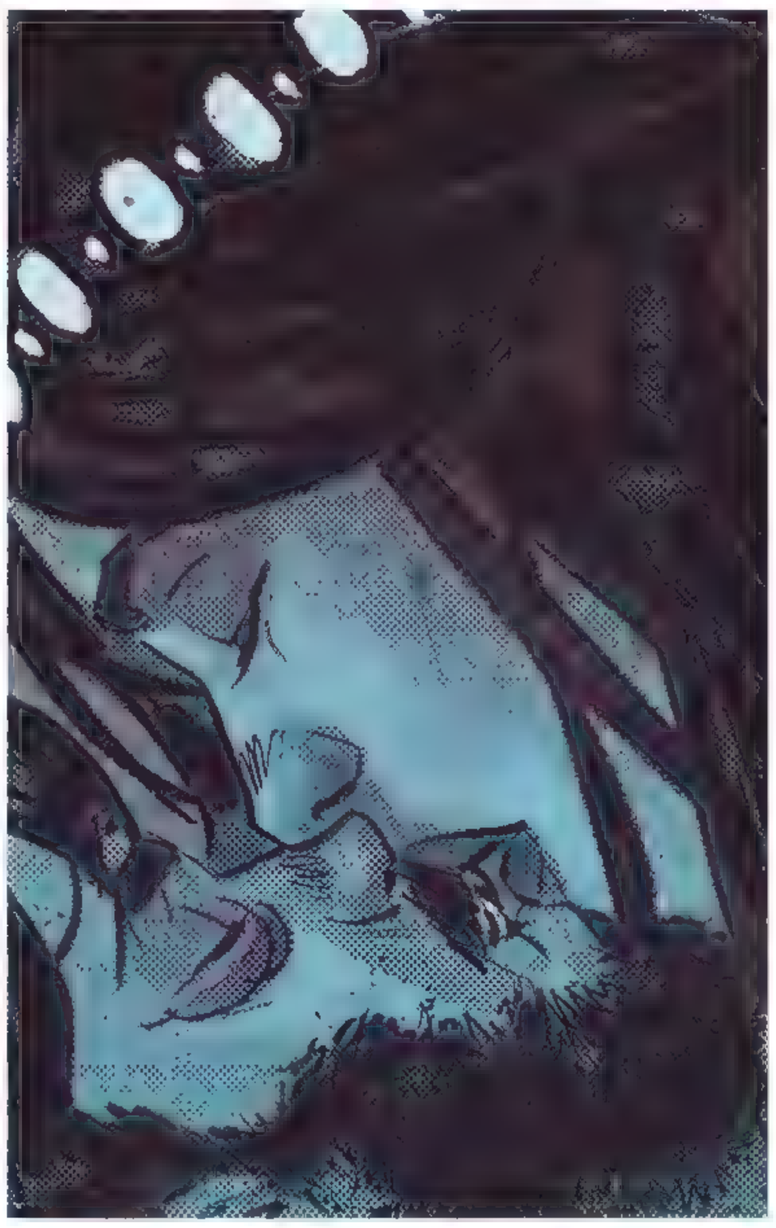
TRAP AND DESTROY SCOTT FREE!

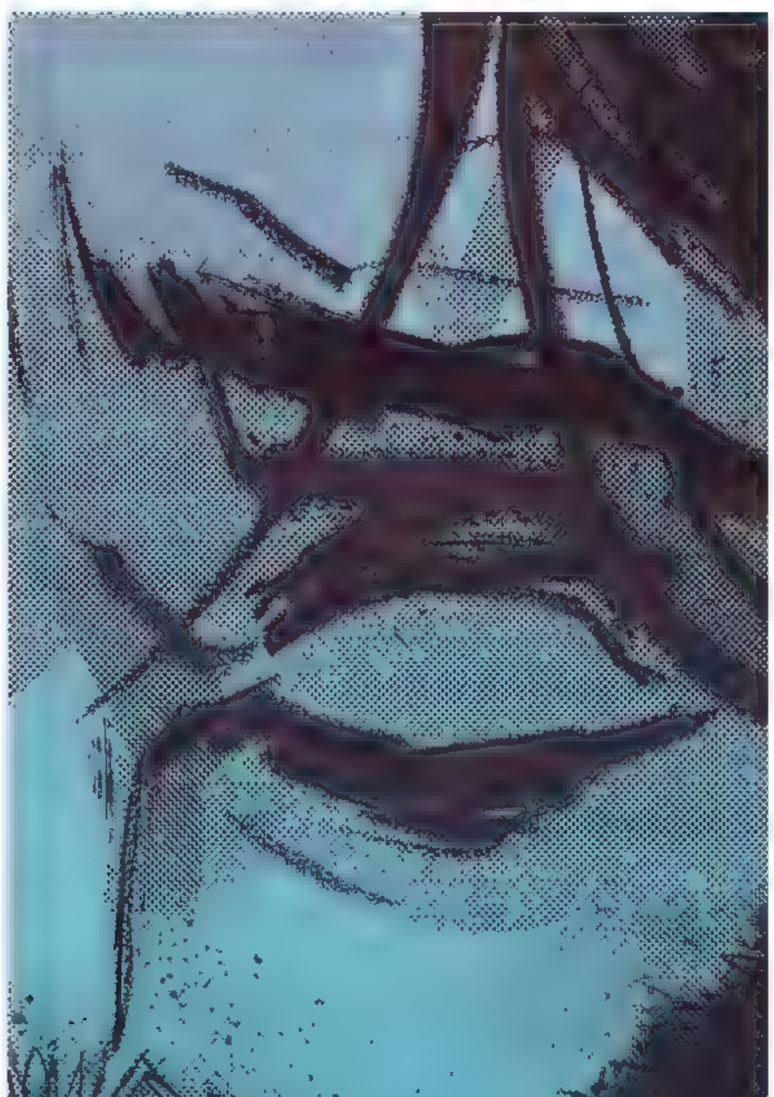
--Mister Miracle!!

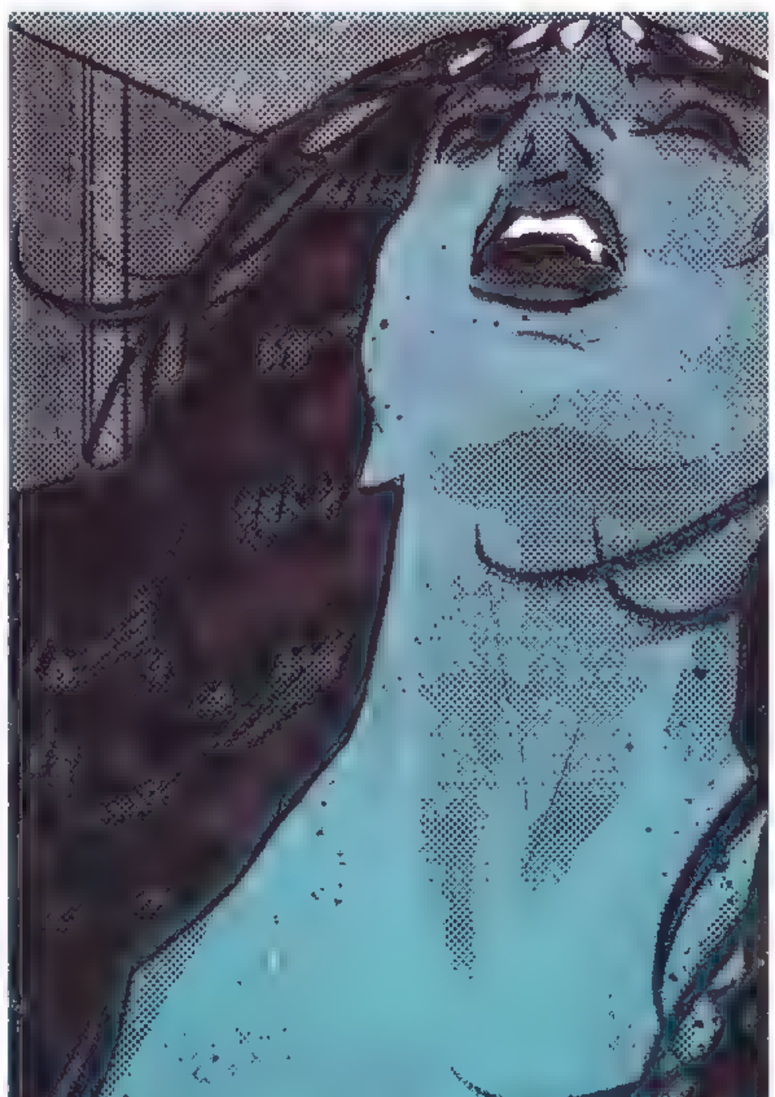
SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST.

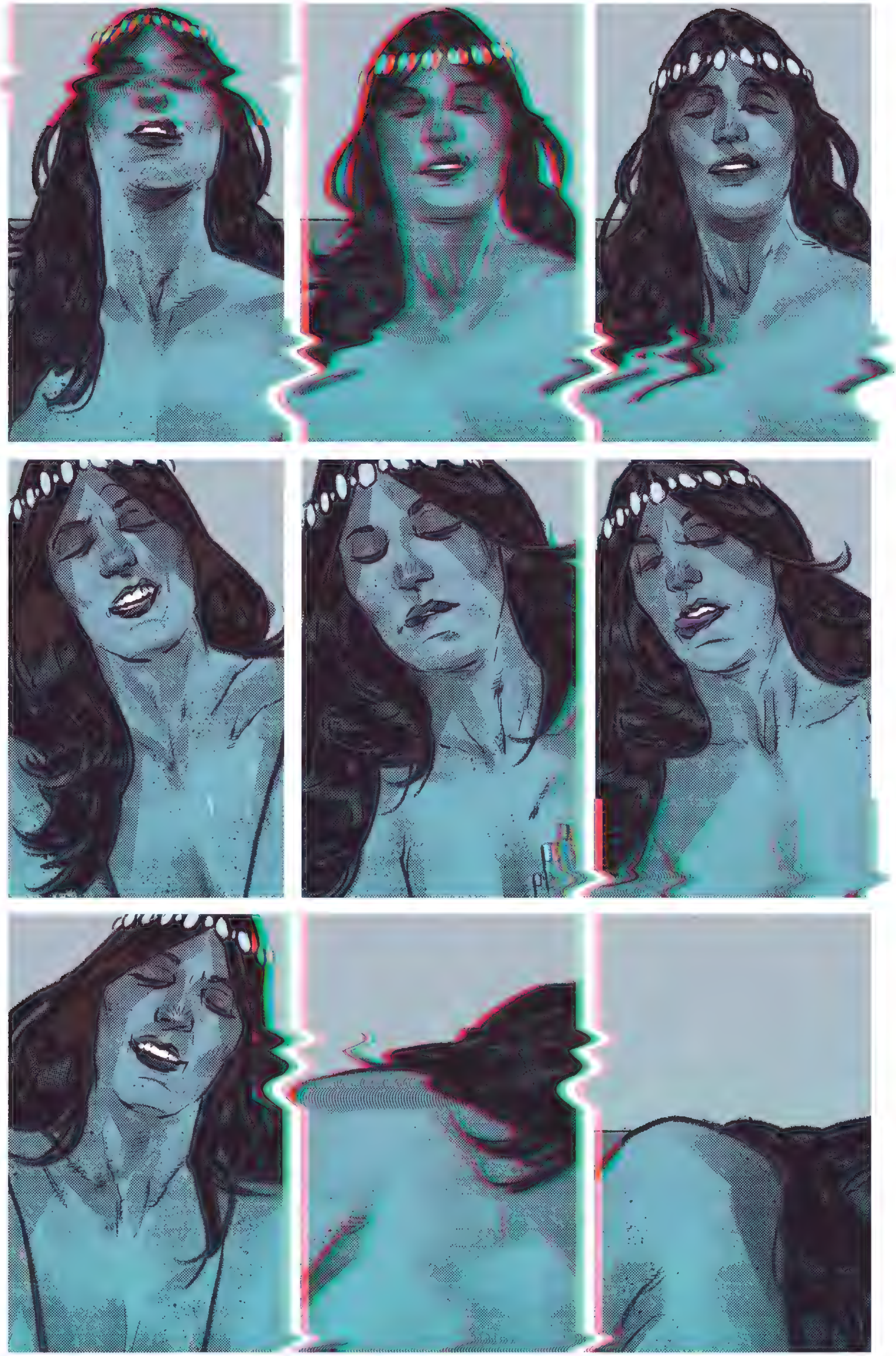
I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE.
CAN YOU NOW?











OBERON KURTZBERG
1948-2017
"GET ME OUT
OF HERE!"

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

IT'S NOT RUSH HOUR YET.

WE'LL BE OKAY.

MOTHER BOX, ON THE 101, HOW LONG IS IT TO DOWNTOWN?

FROM HERE, IF WE LEAVE NOW.

SEVENTY-THREE MINUTES.

GOOD-BYE, OLD PAL.

SEE YOU SOON.

EVERYTHING IS RUSH HOUR.

SEVENTY-THREE MINUTES.

MIGHT BE WORTH IT.

MOTHER BOX, IF WE JUST BOOM-TUBED THERE?

HOW MUCH DAMAGE WOULD THAT CAUSE?

EARTH-TO-EARTH BOOM TUBE TRAVEL HOLDS THE POSSIBILITY OF SHEARING THE FABRIC OF SPACE TIME.

POSSIBLY CRITICALLY WOUNDING YOUR CURRENT REALITY.

DO WE HAVE A SONG?

LIKE PEOPLE HAVE WHERE SOMETHING'S PLAYING WHEN THEY FIRST MET?

I COULD HAVE MOTHER BOX PLAY IT.

IT COULD BE A...Y'KNOW, LIKE A MOMENT.

WE MET IN THE PITS, SCOTT.

ALL THE NOISE AROUND WAS THE MOANS OF THE DAMNED.

IT WAS NOT A MOMENT.

MOTHER BOX, CAN YOU PLAY US THE MOANS OF THE DAMNED?

PLEASE SPECIFY, WHICH DAMNED?

THE PIT. ABOUT TEN YEARS BACK.

PING

AAAAAA!

NO!

GODS HELP ME!!!

WHY?!? WHY?!?

THEY TOOK MY LEG!!!

AAAAA!

STOP!! PLEASE!!

GHHHAA!

GODS MAKE IT STOP!!

ARRHHH!

NOOOO!!!

MY EYES ARE BLEEDING!!!

ANYTHING!! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING!!!

YES! YES! YES!

GODS FORGIVE ME!!!

AAAAAAA!!

"NUMBER 19

"WITH A CUP OF CABBAGE SOUP TOO

"THANK YOU.

I MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR MADAM FIFI.

ISN'T IT GETTING BETTER? DID YOU CHECK THIS MORNING?

YEAH, SHE WENT TWICE SINCE YESTERDAY.

BUT IT LOOKS WRONG.

IF YOU HADN'T POOPED IN THREE DAYS YOURS WOULD LOOK WRONG, TOO.

I MEAN, RIGHT?

I'M SURE IT'S FINE.

NUMBER 19.

YOUR CUP OF CABBAGE WILL BE RIGHT UP.

THIS IS THE BEST. BEST SANDWICH IN ALL THE WORLDS.

YOU REALLY SHOULD GET ONE. I'M SERIOUS, I'M NOT SHARING.

SCOTT...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO EAT, SCOTT?

I MEAN...

GOD DAMNIT.

I USED TO COME HERE.

WHEN I FIRST GOT TO L.A.

AND NO ONE KNEW ME. I WAS JUST RUNNING AWAY.

I USED TO SPEND WAY TOO MANY HOURS JUST STARING AT THIS POND, OR LAKE OR WHATEVER.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT PEOPLE PUT IN THAT WATER?

YOU CAN SMELL IT.

I CAN.

I LIKE THE LIGHT ON THE WATER.

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT'S IN THE WATER.

JUST LOOK. WHAT IT DOES WITH THE SUN.

IT'S PERFECT.

HMM.

I STILL **SMELL** IT.

IF NOT TODAY...

WHEN?

HOW ABOUT NEVER. HOW ABOUT I ***DON'T*** NEED IT.

HOW MUCH ROOM DOES THAT TAKE UP?

THE CONDO IS NOTHING. I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO ***PUT*** IT.

LOOK, WE DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT LIFE OR DEATH.

OR ANYTHING.

BUT WE ***DO*** KNOW THIS...

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE ROOM.

CLONGK

YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT THIS.

I MADE YOU A PROMISE. IT WAS OUR HONEYMOON.

AND I ***PROMISED.***

AND YOU SPENT HALF A DAY MISSING EVERYTHING.

I GOT BURNT ON THE BEACH WAITING FOR YOU.

YOU'RE GETTING THE PRIZE.

FOR ALL THE MONEY!

CLONGK

OKAY, YOU LOOK GREAT, SO GREAT.

I'LL TAKE A FEW.

SEE?

A PROMISE KEPT.

DO I JUST PRESS THE BUTTON?

YEAH.

I'M NOT SURE THIS COUNTS.

WAIT, I THINK I LOCKED IT.

WE GOT THE PRIZE.

YOU WERE GIVEN THE PRIZE IN EXCHANGE FOR CALLING THE PRIZE GIVER'S GIRLFRIEND.

AND SAYING, AND I QUOTE--

"THIS IS MISTER MIRACLE AND I CAN'T ESCAPE NOTICING HASSAN LOVES YOU."

A PRIZE IS A PRIZE.

IT DOESN'T COUNT.

OKAY, I'VE GOT IT.

YOU KNOW, BIG BARDA--

--I CAN'T ESCAPE NOTICING HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU.

SCOTT FREE...

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

I'M SORRY.

I THINK I LOCKED IT AGAIN.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT DESCARTES DOUBTED EVERYTHING.

THE WORLD'S EXISTENCE, HIS EXISTENCE, TRUTH, ***EVERYTHING.***

UNTIL HE FINALLY FIGURED OUT, THE ONLY THING HE COULDN'T DOUBT, WAS THAT HE WAS ***DOUBTING.***

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DOUBT YOU'RE DOUBTING, BECAUSE YOU'RE DOUBTING.

SO THAT'S *"I THINK THEREFORE I AM"* AND ALL THAT.

WHAT PEOPLE FORGET IS THAT THERE'S A SECOND PART. HE'S STILL STUCK.

I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE ***YOU*** ARE DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING ***ELSE*** IS.

HE COULD BE A BRAIN IN A JAR, OR IN A DREAM OR CONTROLLED BY A DEMON. WHATEVER.

HE SAYS, SOME THINGS ARE BETTER THAN OTHER THINGS.

AND GOD IS THE...

...WHAT YOU'D CALL THE THING THAT IS ALL THE BETTER THINGS.

SO HE HAS TO GET OUT OF THAT, SO HE USES THIS OTHER ARGUMENT.

ABOUT GOD.

SO GOOD IS BETTER THAN BAD, GOD IS GOOD.

STRONG IS BETTER THAN WEAK, GOD IS STRONG.

KIND IS BETTER THAN CRUEL, GOD IS KIND.

IF THERE ARE TWO CHOICES, GOD IS THE BETTER CHOICE.

HE HAS THE BETTER QUALITY.

TO BE IS BETTER THAN TO NOT BE.

SO THEN GOD IS.

AND THEN HE SAID, TO EXIST IS BETTER THAN TO NOT EXIST.

SO GOD EXISTS.

AND THEN IF GOD EXISTS, AND HE'S GOOD, HE WOULDN'T PUT US IN A JAR.

OR IN A DREAM OR WITH A DEMON.

AND THAT'S HOW HE CRAWLS OUT OF THE DOUBT.

I THINK THEREFORE I AM. GOD EXISTS.

THE WORLD IS... WHATEVER THE WORLD IS.

LATER, PEOPLE LIKE KANT AND STUFF, CAME ON AND ATTACKED THE GOD THING.

SAYING BASICALLY THE ARGUMENT DIDN'T WORK BECAUSE...

BASICALLY, THE SETUP PRESUMED THE CONCLUSION.

ONCE YOU SAY "GOD," IF YOUR DEFINITION OF "GOD" IS THAT GOD EXISTS...

...THEN SAYING "GOD EXISTS, BECAUSE I SAID 'GOD.'"

THAT'S JUST A STUPID TAUTOLOGY. WORD PLAY. NOT A PROOF.

BUT WHAT BOTHERS ME IS THAT IF ***THAT'S*** TRUE, THE WORD PLAY THING.

THEN IT'S TRUE OF ALL OF IT, OF THE FIRST THING.

"I THINK THEREFORE I AM."

I MEAN YOU'RE PRESUMING AN "I."

AND YOU'RE SAYING THAT "I" CONTAINS THE EXISTENCE, THE THINKING.

IT'S JUST ANOTHER TAUTOLOGY. I AM THEREFORE I AM.

WITHOUT GOD, I DON'T EXIST.

AND IF I EXIST, GOD EXISTS.

SO IF YOU THROW OUT GOD, THEN YOU THROW OUT YOU.

YOU'RE BACK TO THE DOUBTING, ALL OF THE DOUBTING.

WE LOOK TO FIND OURSELVES, TO SEE OUR OWN FACE.

AND WE FIND THE FACE OF GOD.

YOU SAID YOU CAN ESCAPE ANYTHING.

ESCAPE THIS.

OUR LAST DAY.

ON THIS OR ON ANY PLANET.

AND WE'RE STUCK ON THE 10.

MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE SANTA MONICA.

IT'S TOO MANY LIGHTS.

ONCE WE GET TO THE 405 IT'LL BE BETTER.

NO, IT WON'T.

THIS IS IT. THE LAST MEMORY YOU'LL GET OF THE WORLD THAT LOVED YOU.

RED LIGHTS. ENDLESS.

JESUS.

AT LEAST IT'S PRETTY.

IT'S ALMOST PRETTY.

OKAY, I ADMIT.

I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE... BETTER.

WITH A LOT MORE STARS AT LEAST.

I HAD THIS WHOLE PLAN WHERE, LIKE, THE LIGHTS OF THE VALLEY WOULD MEET THE STARS.

AND THERE'D JUST BE LIGHT EVERYWHERE.

AND THE TWO WOULD MIX. MAN AND THE UNIVERSE.

AND THE MEANING OF LIFE WOULD BE THERE.

BUT WHERE ARE THE STARS?

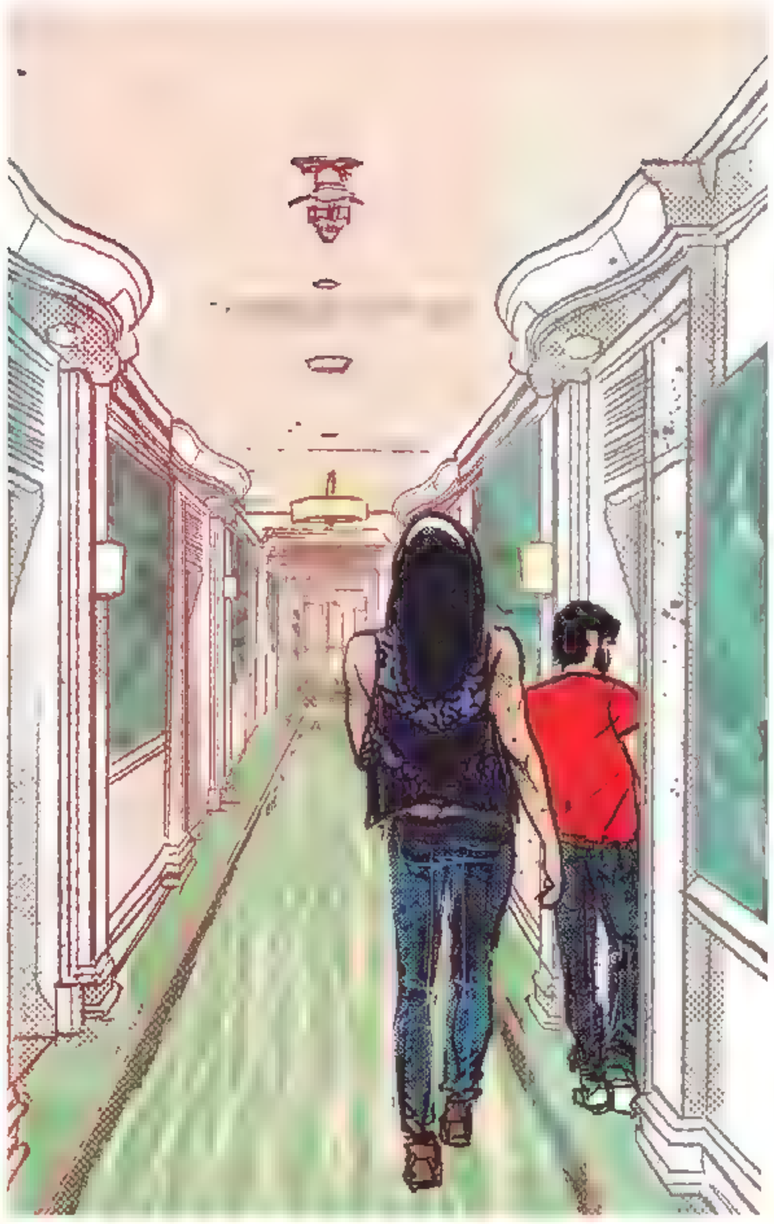
WE STILL HAVE THE VALLEY.

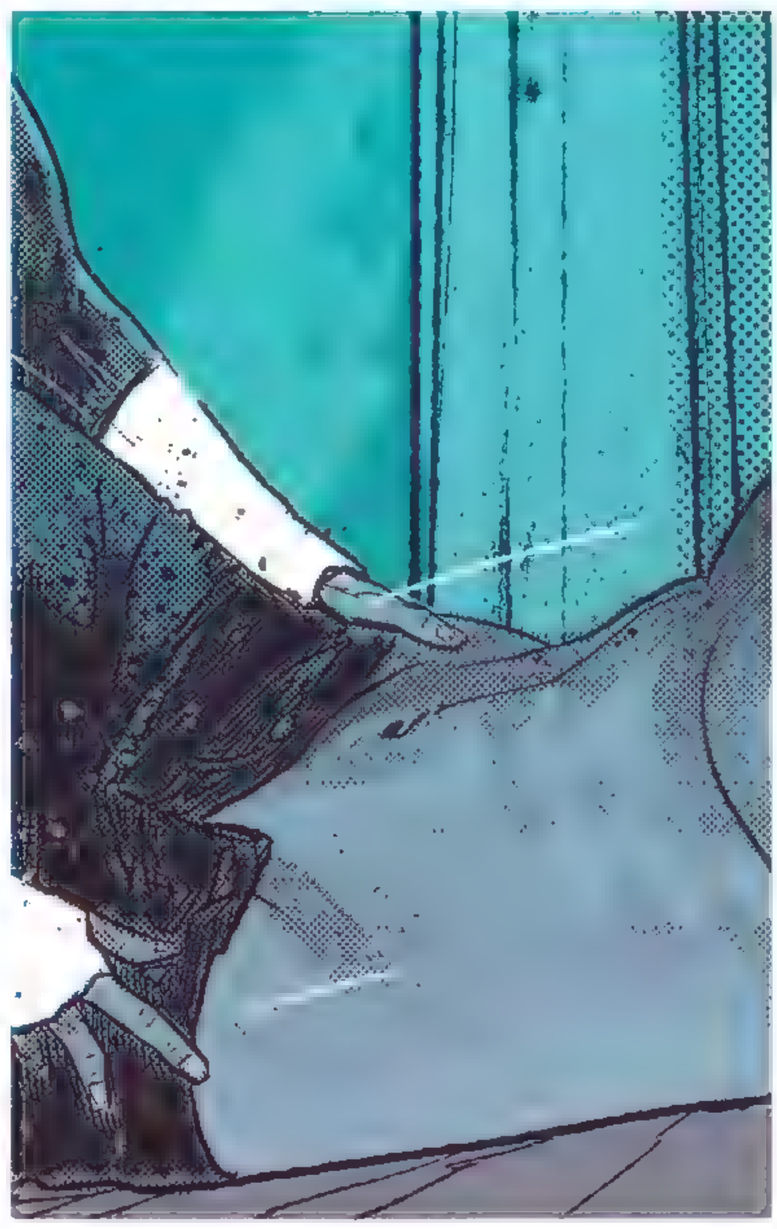
NO ONE FINDS THE MEANING OF LIFE IN THE VALLEY.

WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO HOME.

GET SOME SLEEP.

ALL RIGHT.





BOOM

Darkseid is.

OKAY! HERE'S THE *PLAN!*

I GOT A CAMERA CREW WAITING *DOWNSTAIRS!*

BEFORE THESE *YOUNG GENTLEMEN* ESCORT YOU TO YOUR *DEATH!*

YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE A *HUGE* PRESS CONFERENCE!

DON'T WORRY! THIS IS ALL *HIGHFATHER* APPROVED!

I'M GOING TO GET DRESSED.

LET'S GO.

MISTER MIRACLE!

YOU LOOK *LIKE* A MIRACLE!

SO *HERE'S* WHAT I GOT!

YOU GO DOWN, WITH *THESE TWO* BEHIND YOU!

IN FRONT OF THE *CAMERA!*

BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU FAIL, DOESN'T MEAN YOU *STOP* TRYING!

THAT'S A *LESSON* FOR ALL THE *KIDS* OUT THERE!

AND *YOU* EXPLAIN!

I TRIED TO ESCAPE *DEATH*, BUT *FAILED!*

SO *BACK* I GO!

READY TO PERFORM THE *WORLD'S GREATEST FEAT!*

THIS TIME WITH THE HELP OF THE *GREAT DEITY HIMSELF!*

ORION: HIGHFATHER OF NEW GENESIS!

AND *THEN!* WE JUST WAIT FOR THE *APPLAUSE!*

ZAP

YOU KNOW HIM!! I KNOW HIM!!

EVERYBODY GETS TO KNOW A "FUNKY FLASHMAN."

POW

THE QUESTION IS: "DO WE NEED HIM?"

ZAP

THIS CAN BECOME A DESPERATE ISSUE--

WHAT?

IF A "FUNKY FLASHMAN" CAN DECIDE YOUR FATE!

HE CHEATS DEATH! HE DEFIES MAN! NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!

MISTER MIRACLE

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIS

WATCH MISTER MIRACLE GET TAKEN!!!

BY THE CON'S CON-MAN!!!

THE FUNKIEST AGENT OF THEM ALL!!!

STAY.

NICK DERINGTON

I love you.

AND NOW WE SWITCH TO THE PIGEON MARKED BY AMBITIOUS, ENTERPRISING FUNKY!!

IT'S NONE OTHER THAN THAT HANDSOME, HARD-WORKING AND DEATH-DEFYING SCOTT FREE!!

WHOSE AMBITIONS AND STRANGE ENTERPRISE ARE AN OUTGROWTH OF AN EVEN STRANGER ORIGIN!!

YES, IT'S A MYSTERIOUS PIGEON THAT WAITS FOR THE VULTURE'S SWOOP!!

AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE MOMENT OF THE KILL, OPENS WIDE THE DOOR FOR A SHOCKING GLIMPSE OF:

CLICK

THE REAL WORLD OF MISTER MIRACLE!!

WSHHH

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST.

WSHHH

CLICK

I WANT TO REDO THE WHOLE CONDO.

BUT I LOVE ***BOTH*** OF THEM.

OH STOP.

MISTER MIRACLE?

LOOK AT THE KITCHEN.

WE DON'T NEED THAT MUCH KITCHEN.

BOOM

MISTER MIRACLE!

BY THE ORDER OF ***HIGHFATHER*** YOU ARE TO KNEEL!

AND PREPARE FOR ***EXECUTION!***

I KNOW WE SAID WE'D COOK--

DO YOU--

--BUT WE DON'T.

UHGGN

AGKKHN

I THINK IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH.

AND WE NEED TO ACCEPT WHO WE ARE.

I LIKE YOUR OMELET.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE NIGHT CLASSES ON SOUFFLÉS.

I CAN BARELY DO AN OMELET.

WELL, I CAN MAKE THE OMELET IN A SMALLER KITCHEN.

WE HAVE ALL THAT STUFF ON THAT FRONT COUNTER.

IF THAT'S NOT THERE, WHERE DOES THAT GO?

BASH!

THAT'S JUST MAGAZINES AND CRAP.

OKAY, BUT WE *HAVE* MAGAZINES AND CRAP.

IN THE CONDO.

AND THAT'S WHERE THEY GO.

BASH!

I HONESTLY THINK THAT IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT COUNTER.

WE WOULDN'T HAVE THE STUFF.

C'MON...

BASH!

IF YOU HAVE A PLACE TO PUT THINGS.

THEN YOU FIND *THINGS* TO PUT THERE.

MAGAZINES EXIST. AND PAPERS AND BILLS.

THEY'RE REAL. THEY NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE.

THEY'RE ONLY REAL *BECAUSE* THEY'RE THERE.

IF THERE'S NO *THERE* FOR THEM TO BE...

THEN THEY'RE NOT REAL.

I *LIKE* THE MAGAZINES.

OKAY, SO THE KITCHEN IS SMALLER.

WHAT? WE EXTEND THE LIVING ROOM WALL IN THERE?

NO, THE BEDROOM WALL.

IN THE BACK...

FROM THE CLOSET.

WARNING: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED HERE.

WARNING: LASERS WILL NOW OBLITERATE YOU.

BZEWW

BZEWW

BZEWW

OKAY.

BUT THEN WHAT ABOUT THE CLOSET?

YOU DON'T EVEN USE IT.

IT'S *ALL* MY STUFF.

BUT IF *YOUR* STUFF ISN'T THERE.

THEN IT'LL BE ON TOP OF *MY* STUFF.

NO, BECAUSE I PUT *MY* STUFF AWAY.

YOUR STUFF IS THE STUFF ON THE *FLOOR.*

SO, THAT'S JUST YOU ***ADMITTING*** YOU'RE COMING INTO ***MY*** CLOSET.

I'M GOING TO GET RID OF THINGS.

I DON'T NEED ***HALF*** OF EVERYTHING I HAVE.

JUST BECAUSE YOU ***DON'T*** NEED IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU ***HAVE TO*** GET RID OF IT.

YOU MIGHT WANT IT.

THE WAY WE GREW UP, SCOTT...

WITH GRANNY AND THE X-PIT...

I KNOW.

I GET THINGS BECAUSE I NEVER HAD THEM.

BUT IS THAT A GOOD REASON TO GET THEM?

I'M JUST SAYING IF YOU WANT THEM.

WE'LL FIND A WAY.

I DON'T ***WANT*** THEM.

OKAY.

WHATEVER YOU WANT.

WE STILL HAVE ALL THAT STUFF FROM OBERON.

IN THE TRAINING ROOM.

YEAH.

HOW MANY CIGAR BOXES DO WE HAVE?

I TRIED TO COUNT.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN DO ANYTHING WITH THEM.

MOST OF THEM HAVE VERY NAKED PEOPLE ON THEM.

WELL, PRETTY MUCH ALL OF THEM.

WARNING: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED HERE.

WARNING: ACID GAS WILL NOW MELT YOU.

WARNING:

WARNING:

SO...WE GET RID OF THOSE...

AND... MAKE SOME ROOM.

NO, HONEY.

HE *LOVED* THEM.

YEAH, BUT HE'S ***DEAD.***

WHAT DO YOU LOVE WHEN YOU'RE DEAD?

WARNING: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED HERE.
WARNING: TIDEDRAGON WILL NOW CONSUME YOU.
Splsh
Splsh

SO IF WE'RE THE *FOURTH* WORLD, WHAT WERE THE FIRST THREE?

IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT.

IF THERE'S A FOURTH, THEN THERE'S A FIRST.

WHAT? DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEOLOGY?

DUDE, I'M A GOD.

I *AM* THEOLOGY.

CRKKK

HUH?

KKRRSHHH

SO...IF WE GET RID OF THAT STUFF AND PUT OUR STUFF THERE.

WE DON'T NEED THE CLOSET.

IT WASN'T MY CLOSET NOT TO NEED.

I KNOW.

BUT YOU WERE THE ONE COMPLAINING.

I WASN'T COMPLAINING.

MISTER MIRACLE! BIG BARDA!

KNEEL AND DIE!

I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE.

YOU JUST SAID I WAS.

THAT'S NOT HOW I MEANT IT.

WAIT. "YOU WERE THE ONE COMPLAINING"...

...DOESN'T MEAN I WAS THE ONE COMPLAINING?

SCOTT, I'M TRYING TO DO SOMETHING HERE.

CAN YOU JUST FOR ONE SECOND LISTEN TO ME?

ZZAP

IT'S FOR *US.*

OKAY?

NO, YEAH.

OKAY.

I'M NOT TRYING TO FIGHT.

THE CLOSET'S GONE. STUFF MOVES.

THERE'S A WHOLE NEW THING THERE.

I GET IT.

SPKK

AAAAA!

THEN THE CLOSET BECOMES A ROOM.

WITH THE PART FROM THE KITCHEN.

AND WE MAKE THAT A BATHROOM.

DON'T WE ALREADY HAVE A BATHROOM?

AAAAA!

AAAA!

AND NOW WE'LL HAVE TWO.

BATHROOM OFF THE BEDROOM. BATHROOM OFF THE LIVING ROOM.

THEN I WANT TO CUT THE LIVING ROOM IN HALF.

AAAA!

BUT I *LIKE* THE LIVING ROOM.

GNNNGG

IT'LL BE THE SAME.

EVERYTHING THAT'S THERE CAN BE PUT IN HALF THE SPACE.

THAT COUCH AND THE TV AND EVERYTHING.

LIKE A SECOND AGO, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THINGS IN A CLOSET.

NOW HALF THE LIVING ROOM'S GONE?

GHHNN

I THINK IT'LL BE BETTER SMALLER.

IT COULD BE COZY.

AAA!

IT'S COZY NOW.

I KNOW, BUT IT'LL BE FINE.

MAKING THINGS ***SMALLER*** DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE THEM BETTER.

MY ROOM IN THE X-PIT: I LIVED IN A THREE-BY-THREE BOX.

GGGN!

THAT WAS COZY.

IT WASN'T ***GOOD.***

GHH

I GET IT, BUT THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE, TOO.

YOU CAN OVERREACT TO YOUR CHILDHOOD.

LIKE ME WITH THE CLOTHES AND THE THINGS.

YOU GREW UP IN A BOX, YOU WANT TO ESCAPE THE BOX.

BUT IF YOU'RE ***ESCAPING*** THE BOX, THEN YOU'RE STILL ***IN*** THE BOX.

AAAA!

YOU'RE NOT IN THE BOX, SCOTT.

YOU'VE GOT ***NOTHING*** TO ESCAPE.

NNNN

YOU CAN HANDLE A SMALLER LIVING ROOM.

GKK

YEAH, OKAY, OBVIOUSLY.

I'M NOT IN A BOX.

BUT... I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY.

STUFF THAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHEN YOU'RE A KID.

ALL THAT ***BAD*** STUFF.

IT'S A ***WARNING.***

REJECTING IT, OR NOT WANTING IT OR WHATEVER--

--THAT'S NOT THE SAME AS BEING ***CAPTURED*** BY IT.

IT'S NOT, RIGHT?

I DIDN'T LIKE ***NOT*** HAVING SPACE.

SO I LEARNED I LIKE ***HAVING*** SPACE.

THAT'S JUST HEEDING THE WARNING.

C'MON, SCOTT, REALLY?

WARNINGS ARE JUST PEOPLE TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO.

YOU MAKE YOUR OWN LIFE.

DO YOU?

I DO.

WARNING: NOTHING CAN CROSS THE FOREVER VOID.

WARNING: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE HERE.

WHY AREN'T YOU AFFECTED BY IT? WHY DON'T YOU--

IT *HAUNTS* ME.

WHY DOESN'T IT HAUNT YOU?

WHAT DID GRANNY *SAY*, EVERY TIME?

EVERY HORROR.

HOW DID SHE...WHAT DID SHE SAY, SCOTT?

"I LOVE YOU."

SHE SAID SHE LOVED ME.

MY FATHER-- WHO IS *GOD*-- HAD JUST GIVEN ME AWAY TO THE DEVIL.

WHAT DID I KNOW ABOUT BELIEVING?

AND YOU BELIEVED HER?

YOU DID.

YOU THOUGHT IT WAS ALL LOVE.

BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER, WHO IS *GOD*. BECAUSE HE SHOWED YOU TO *EXPECT* LOVE.

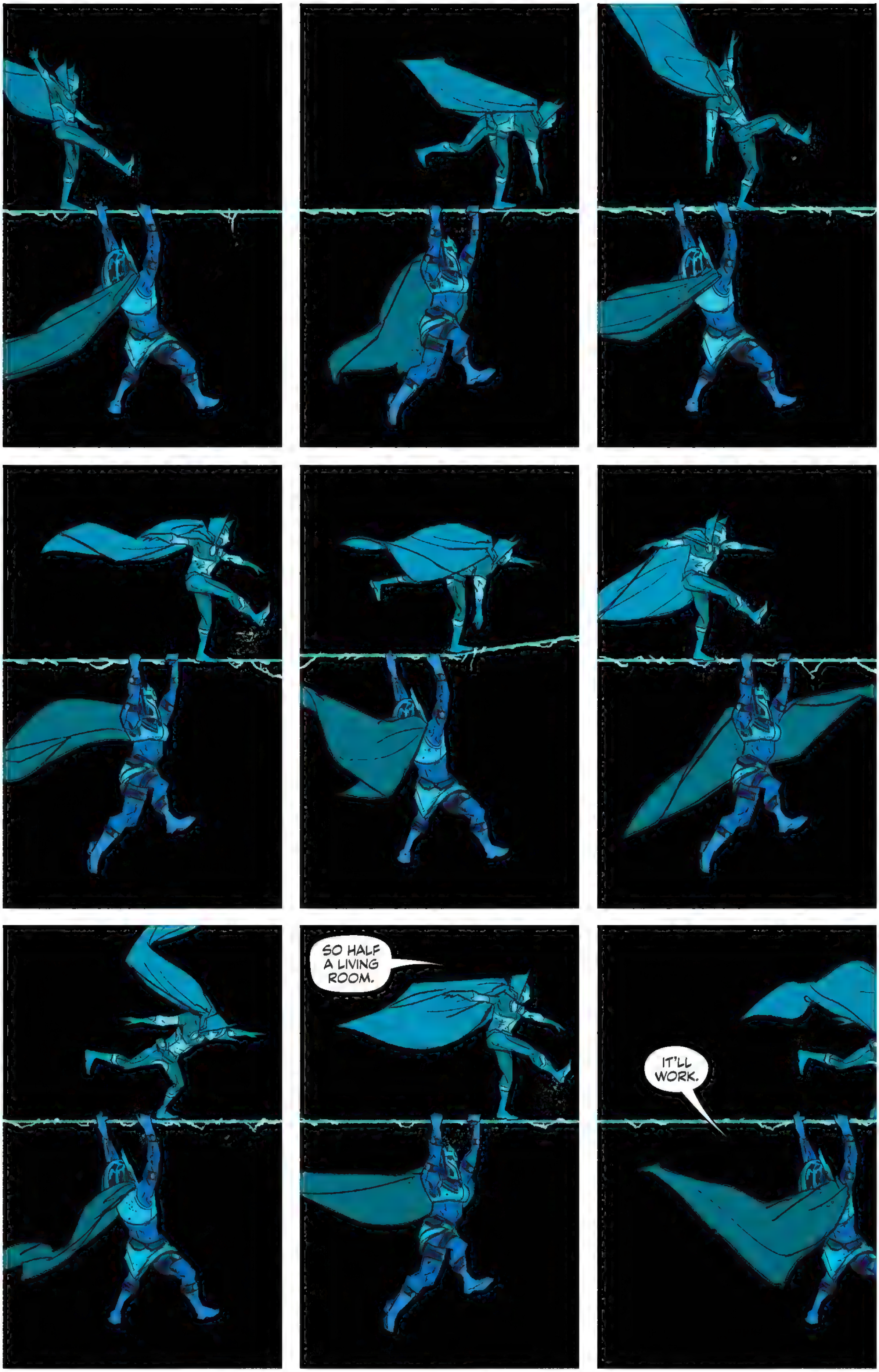
I WAS *ALWAYS* IN THE PIT.

THERE WAS NO GOD OR FATHER.

I DIDN'T *EXPECT* ANYTHING.

GRANNY'S WORDS WERE MORE NOISES AMONG THE SCREAMS.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE NOISE.


SO HALF A LIVING ROOM.
IT'LL WORK.

THEN OKAY, WHAT'S THE *OTHER* HALF?

WARNING: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED HERE.

I WANT A BEDROOM THERE.

WARNING: THE ROOM WILL NOW SHRINK AND CRUSH YOU.

ANOTHER BEDROOM?

THIS IS THE GREAT PLAN?

WE NEED ANOTHER BEDROOM.

WE HAVE THE BLOW-UP MATTRESS IN THE LAB.

FOR GUESTS.

I KNOW, I KNOW, WE HAD BETTY OVER.

AND SHE WENT TO GET WATER THAT ONE TIME.

AND GOT... STABBED.

BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

I PUT A SIGN ON THE STAB-A-TRON.

DID YOU?

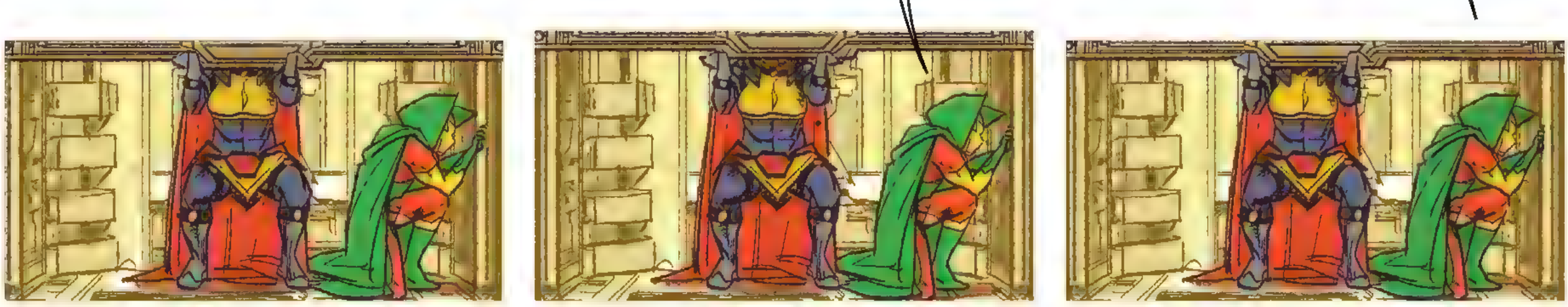
I'M *GOING* TO PUT A SIGN ON THE STAB-A-TRON.

THE BLOW-UP MATTRESS IS ***FINE.***

I WANT A BEDROOM OFF THE LIVING ROOM.

THERE IS A BEDROOM OFF THE LIVING ROOM.

OUR BEDROOM.

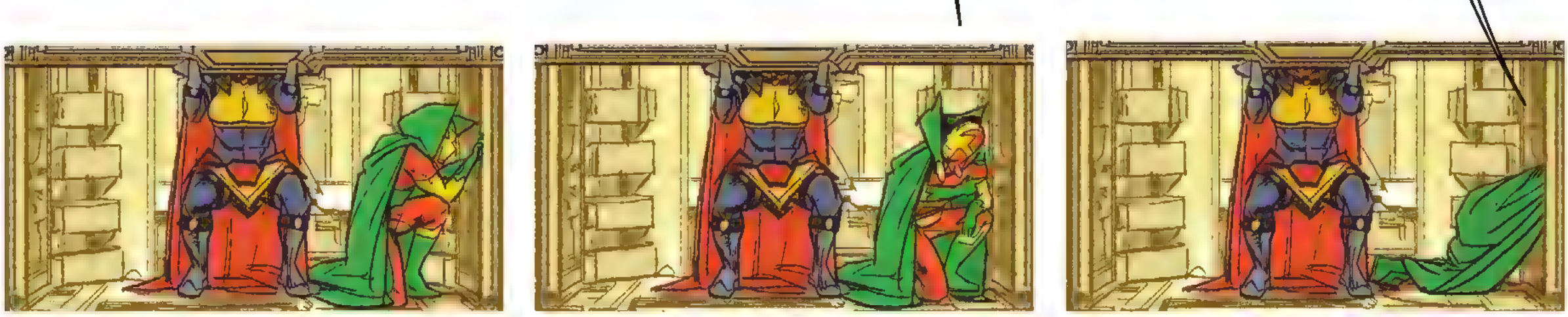


THIS WOULD BE OUR BEDROOM.

THE NEW ONE.

BUT... SO WE'RE IN THE LIVING ROOM?

WHO'S IN THE NEW ROOM?



NEXT TO THE NEW BATHROOM?

KNEEL.

AND SUBMIT TO DEATH.

IT'LL BE NICE.

W-WAIT. WHO'S IN THE...NEW BEDROOM?

I PROMISE.

BOOM

NNNN!

BOOM

GUH.

BOOM

SCOTT.

SO.

I'M PREGNANT.

BIOOO

AAAA!

BIOOO

BIOOO

POW

I LOVE YOU.

I... I BELIEVE YOU, SCOTT FREE.

WHAT DO I DO?

WARNING: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED HERE.

ORION WILL NOW KILL YOU.

HE'S YOUR BROTHER.

TALK TO HIM.

HE'S NOT MY BROTHER.

AND HE DOESN'T... *TALK.*

TRY, SCOTT.

AND IF YOU TRY, ***SINCERELY,*** AND HE ***STILL*** WON'T TALK...

Y'KNOW...

CUT HIS #$~@ING #$~@$ OFF.

HEY, I'LL GET RID OF THE CIGAR BOXES WHEN WE GET BACK.

SOUNDS GOOD.

ORION!!!

NO!
NO!

ORION...

OH, ORION.

WHAT...

WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT DID YOU DO?!!

DARKSEID DOES NOT DO.

Darkseid is.

BOOM

WHAT KIND OF WORLD IS IT--THAT SPAWNS THE GODS OF EVIL AND LESSER BEINGS WITH HORRIBLE HANG-UPS??!!!

YOU'VE SEEN SOME OF ITS NASTY PRODUCTS!!

NOW COME ALONG WITH SCOTT FREE AND BIG BARDA!!--

SCOTT, I HEARD--

--AND TAKE A FEARFUL GLIMPSE OF...

SCOTT!

...THE APOKOLIPS TRAP!!

I WAS...

WHAT HAPPENED?

I SAW IT, BARDA.

I WASN'T LOOKING, BUT THERE IT WAS.

I SAW THE FACE OF GOD.

NICK DERINGTON

It was...Heaven.

WOULD SCOTT FREE BE SO FOOLHARDY AS TO RETURN TO THE NIGHTMARE WORLD FROM WHICH HE ESCAPED??

EMERGENC

VALET PARKING

YES, GOOD FRIENDS!

EMERGENC

VALET PARKING

IT STILL HAS ROOTS THAT MUST BE CUT!

ROOTS THAT COULD REACH TO EARTH AND DESTROY ALL THAT SCOTT HAS LEARNED TO LOVE--

HIS FRIENDS!

HIS CRAFT!

EMERGENC

HIS NEW LIFE!

AND BESIDES--DEATH HAS THE SAME FACE--

WHEREVER HE STRIKES AT--

MISTER MIRACLE!!

YOU CAN'T PARK HERE. YOU CAN DROP HER.

THERE'S A PARKING LOT ON OLYMPIC.

IT SAID ONLINE THERE'S A VALET.

I'M THE VALET.

OKAY. GREAT. WELL...

CAN WE USE YOU?

I DON'T WANT--HER CONTRACTIONS ARE, WHAT? LIKE, FOUR MINUTES APART?

...YES...

THERE'S A PARKING LOT ON ***OLYMPIC.***

IT'S NOT VERY FAR. AROUND THE CORNER. MAKE A LEFT.

LOOK, SHE'S ABOUT TO HAVE THE FIRST NEW GOD ***EVER*** BORN ON EARTH!

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN! I HAVE TO HELP HER!

IF YOU'RE THE ***VALET,*** CAN YOU ***VALET?!?***

THERE'S A PARKING LOT AROUND THE CORNER.

IT'S ON OLYMPIC.

HE SAID IT'S ON OLYMPIC.

I'M ON OLYMPIC!

I SHOULD'VE LEFT YOU AT THE E.R.

NO.

YEAH, WE PRE-REGISTERED.

FIRST NAME, BIG.

LAST NAME, BARDA, B-A-R-D-A.

LET ME KNOW IF IT'S TOO TIGHT.

OKAY, MOM, LET'S GET YOU SETTLED.

DO YOU NEED ANOTHER PILLOW?

AND THIS WILL MONITOR BABY'S HEARTBEAT.

YOU'LL HEAR IT IN JUST A SECOND.

THAT CHAIR ALSO TURNS INTO A BED.

YOU JUST PULL THAT STRAP ON THE SIDE.

beepbeep

SHE'S AT FOUR-MINUTE INTERVALS.

DILATION OF THREE CENTIMETERS.

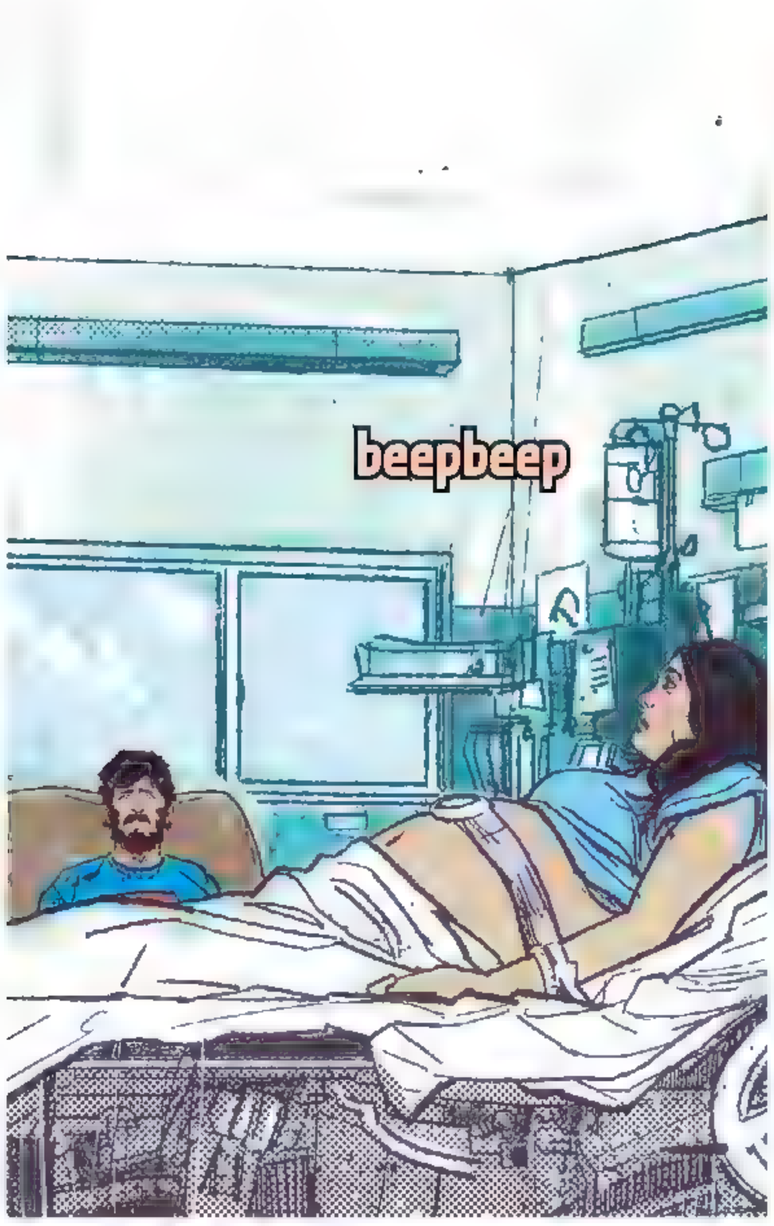
GREAT.

beepbeep

JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR MOTHER NATURE TO DO HER THING.

I'LL BE BACK TO CHECK IN. IN A FEW.

beepbeep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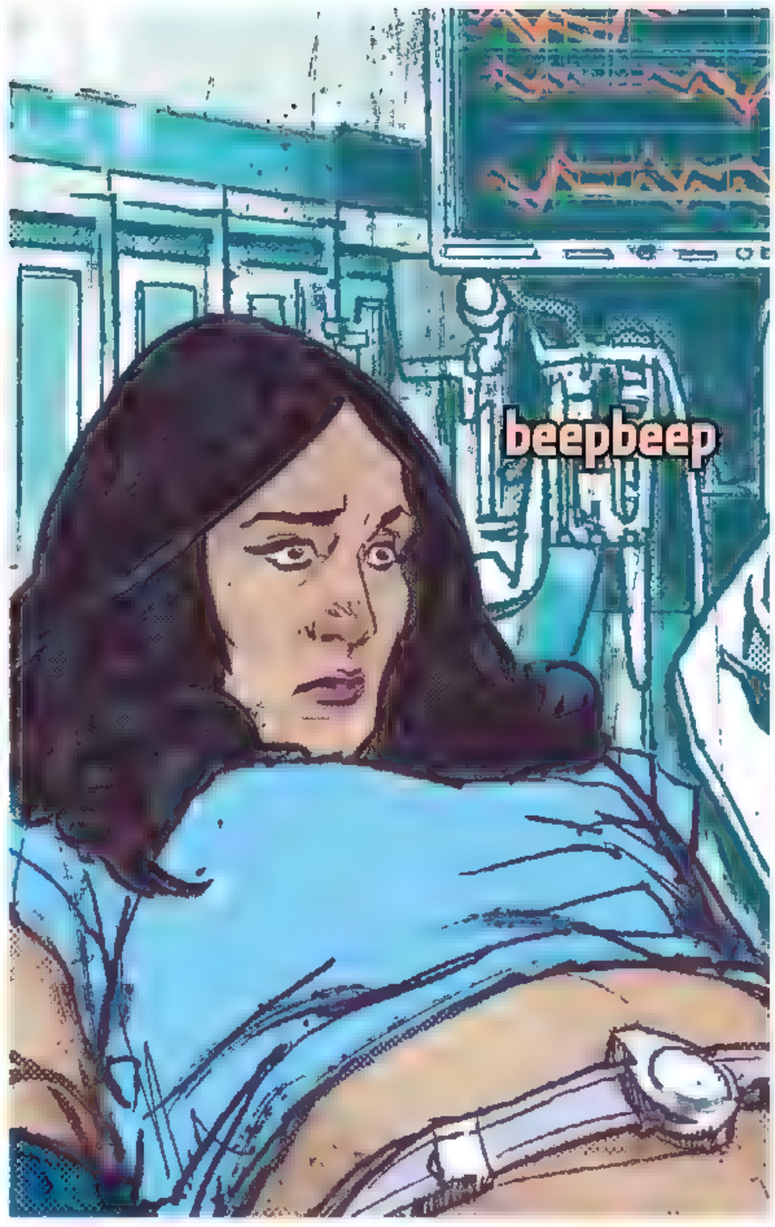
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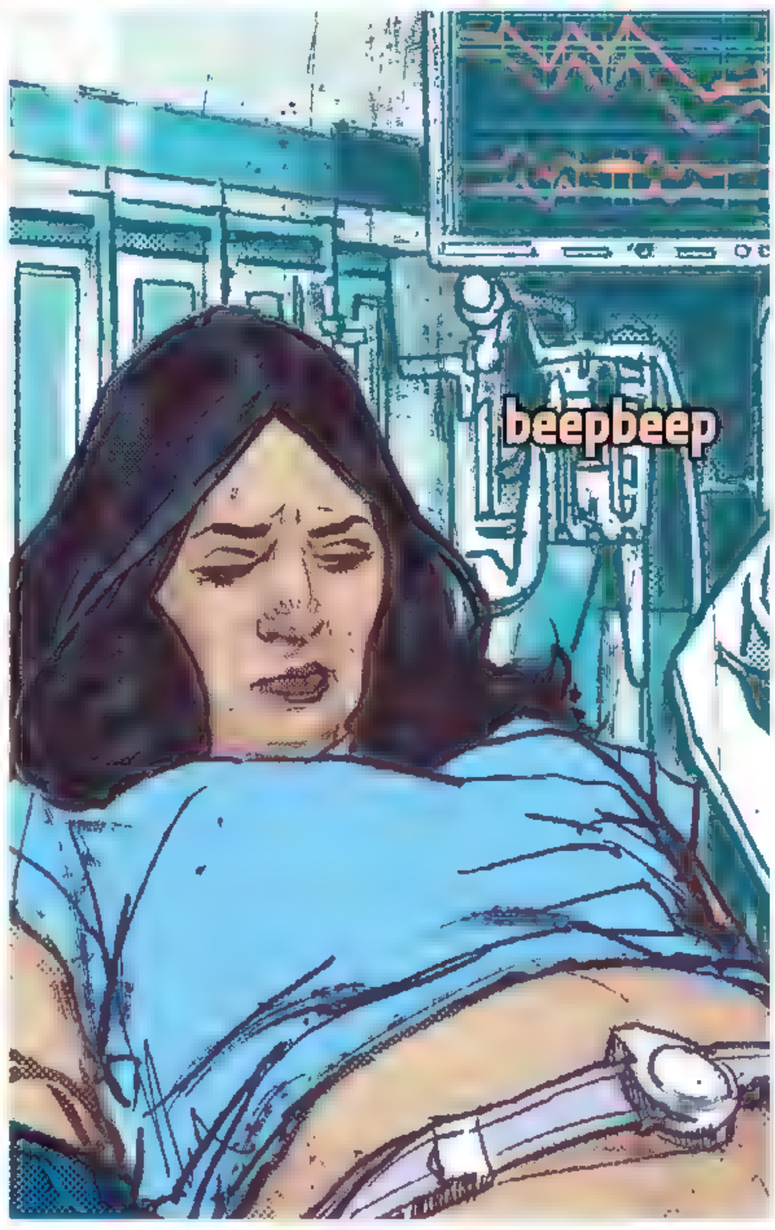
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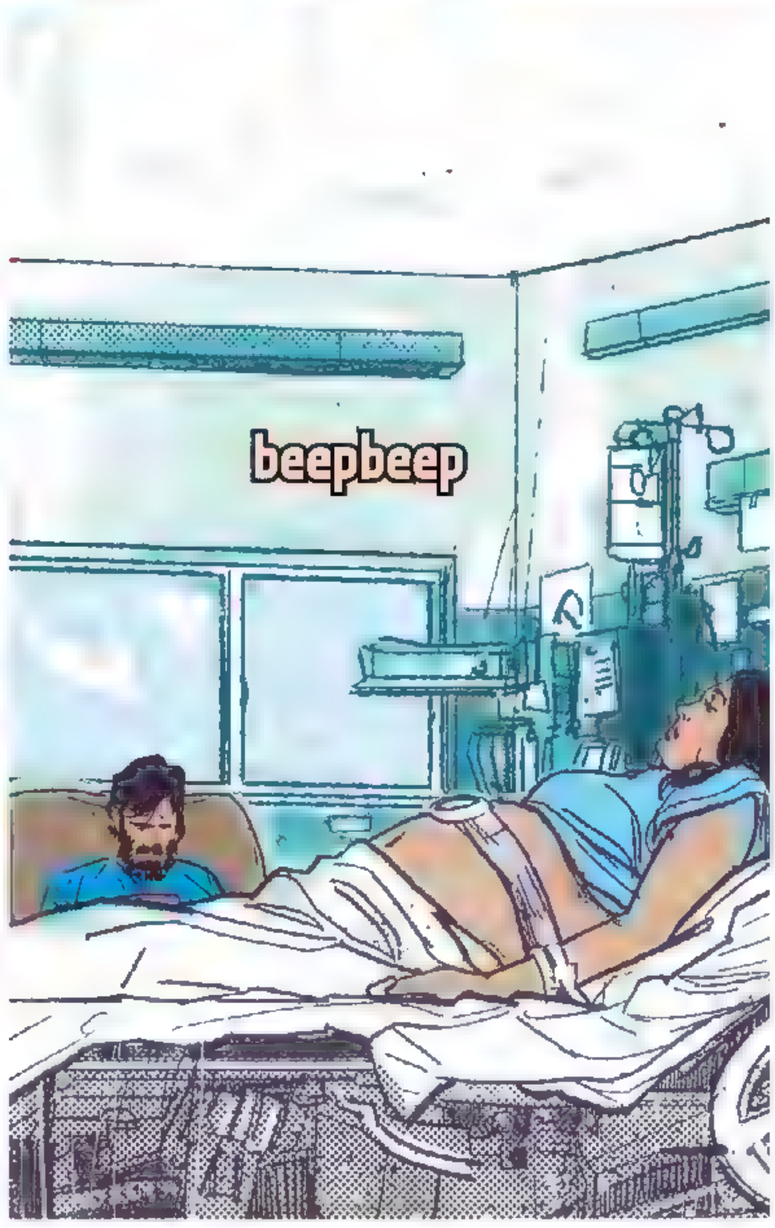

beepbeep

BOOM

beepbeep

¢*%$.

beepbeep

YOU SAID THEY WEREN'T COMING.

beepbeep

I... *TALKED* TO THEM...

THAT'S WHAT THEY... SAID.

beepbeep

I'M *LITERALLY* LEADING A WAR THAT THEY'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF.

beepbeep

MY WOMB...IS GETTING RIPPED IN HALF...

...BY YOUR... OBNOXIOUS *NEW GENESIS* SPAWN!

I DON'T HAVE... TIME...

eepbeep

BE A

NNNNG

beepbeep

THEY'RE OUT THERE. WITH EVERYONE.

I SHOULD TALK TO THEM.

beepbeep

YOU *THINK?!*

beepbeep

WHERE IS SHE?

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE!

THEN SHE HAD A POO!

THEN SHE WAS THROUGH!

MAD HARRIET WUZ HERE

HEH HEH.

POO.

TELL BARDA I *TOLD* THEM WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO COME.

IT'S JUST, THERE HASN'T BEEN A KID BORN TO A FURY IN...

SERIOUSLY, I TOLD THEM.

NO, IT'S FINE.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL HERE.

BARDA WILL... APPRECIATE IT.

YOU'RE SCOTT FREE!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE!

AS DEAD AS A TREE!

TREES AREN'T DEAD, YOU STUPID #$%@.

YOU'RE DEAD!!!

MAD HARRIET WUZ HERE

THWCKK

AM I?!

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ALLOWED TO GO IN THE ROOM, THOUGH.

I TOLD THEM THEY WEREN'T ALLOWED IN THE ROOM.

beepbeep

ARE... THEY?

beepbeep

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

beepbeep

I...

beepbeep

I WANT TO GO HOME.

beepbeep

YEAH.

beepbeep

HOW ABOUT *IRONBREAKER?*

THAT WAS MY GREAT UNCLE, IRONBREAKER. PEOPLE LIKED HIM.

HE DIED AT THE FROZEN TEMPLE SIEGE. ICICLE THROUGH HIS EYE.

beepbeep

NO.

beepbeep

SHE SAYS SPICY FOOD HELPS.
I COULD RUN OUT AND GET SOMETHING.
beepbeep
BE A
WHEN I WAS SEVEN, GRANNY HELD MY HEAD UNDER THE FIREFALL OF UPHERIA.
SHE YELLED AT ME, "KEEP YOUR MOUTH OPEN, LITTLE GIRL! LET THE BURN GO DOWN INTO YOU!
beepbeep
"EVENTUALLY, YOU'LL LOVE IT!"
SHE ALSO SAYS WE COULD TRY TO...MOVE YOU AROUND.
beepbeep
beepbeep
I DID THAT FIREFALL THING WITH GRANNY, TOO.
beepbeep
WONDERFUL... WOMAN.
beepbeep
IT'S WEIRD, THIS *KID.*
WHATEVER HE HAS, HE DOESN'T GET THAT.
beepbeep
NNNNGGG
STARRAZER?
NO.
BE A
beepbeep
beepbeep
HE JUST WON'T REALLY LEARN YOU ***NEVER*** LOVE IT.

IT STOPPED.

WHERE'S THE BEEPING?

MAYBE IT'S OFF.

IS YOUR THING ON RIGHT?

WHY DID IT STOP?

IS HE OKAY? SCOTT?

SHOULD I GET SOMEBODY?

THEY'LL COME, RIGHT?

THEIR MACHINES ARE HOOKED TO THEIR...OTHER MACHINES...

I'M GOING TO GET SOMEBODY.

I'M SURE IT'S FINE.

IT'S OKAY, SWEETIE.

YOUR MOMMY'S HERE.

THE MACHINE THING...

IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?

WE'RE JUST GOING TO TURN YOU ON YOUR SIDE, MOM, OKAY?

HE'S FINE.

I KNOW IT.

BARDA...

beepbeep

THERE, EVERYTHING'S FINE, JUST A LITTLE POSITIONING PROBLEM.

ALL FIXED.

beepbeep

IT'S ALL NORMAL.

beepbeep

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE AT SIX CENTIMETERS NOW.

YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY!

beepbeep

beepbeep

AXEBLOW?

beepbeep

NO.

beepbeep

I KNOW YOU CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING.

BUT DO YOU WANT ANYTHING?

beepbeep

THEY SAID I CAN HAVE CRUSHED ICE.

TO SUCK ON. IT HELPS, THEY SAID.

I READ THAT IN THE BOOK.

beepbeep

OKAY.

YOU WANT ME TO GET THAT?

beepbeep

YEAH.

beepbeep

OKAY.

beepbeep

THANKS.

beepbeep

YOU GUYS DOING OKAY?

WE'RE FINE.

HOW'S YOUR WIFE?

SHE'S--

I THINK EVERYTHING'S FINE.

THESE BABES ARE BORN!

IN THESE WORLDS OF SCORN!

AND *TOOT TOOT* GOES THE HORN!

OKAY.

THERE IS NO BIRTH ON APOKOLIPS.

WHEN READY, CHILDREN ARE REMOVED.

AND *GIVEN* TO GRANNY.

OUR BARDA'S SKIN WILL NOT BREAK WITH EARTH INSTRUMENTS.

THIS IS THE *FAHREN-KNIFE.* IT KILLS GODS.

I WILL ONE DAY USE IT TO KILL YOU, *HIGHFATHER.*

OKAY.

BUT FOR NOW, YOU MAY HAVE IT.

IT WILL *CUT* HER AS SHE NEEDS TO BE *CUT.*

THE ***FAHREN-KNIFE*** DOESN'T CUT.

IT MAKES YOU BURN. FROM THE INSIDE.

beepbeep

BERNADETH GOT IT FROM HER BROTHER, ***DESAAD.***

HE FORGED IT FROM DARKSEID'S OWN FLESH.

PROBABLY IN SOME ***WEASEL*** ATTEMPT TO KILL HIM.

beepbeep

SHE SEEMED SINCERE.

beepbeep

SHE'S TRYING TO... KILL ME.

SHE'S PROBABLY STILL MAD ABOUT GRANNY.

beepbeep

EVERYONE'S STILL MAD ABOUT GRANNY.

beepbeep

NNNNGG

beepbeep

THUNDERDEATH?

beepbeep

THIS... ONE IS...

beepbeep

AAAAAA!

beepbeep

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE AT NINE CENTIMETERS.
GREAT JOB, MOM!
beepbeep
HOW LONG YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE?
beepbeep
COULD GO FAST OR SLOW.
WE'LL CHECK UP EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES OR SO.
IT'S ALL FINE.
beepbeep
beepbeep
NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING.
beepbeep
beepbeep
beepbeep
THRONEKILLER.
beepbeep
NO.
PING
beepbeep
HIGHFATHER, THIS IS FASTBACK.
AN APOKOLIPS ARMY OF **THREE MILLION** HAS JUST BOOMED INTO THE DESERT OF ANGELS.
PLEASE ADVISE.
beepbeep

BE A

YOU CAN...GO...

I TOLD THEM--

THEY'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

beepbeep

NNNNGGG

beepbeep

AAANNNGGG

beepbeep

MOTHER$*$@#!

beepbeep

*$%#@.

beepbeep

DO YOU REMEMBER... JACOB'S LADDER...

beepbeep

YEAH, OF COURSE.

ONLY WAY OUT OF THE X-PIT.

USED TO STARE AT IT.

beepbeep

THE BOOK SAID YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO THINK OF SOMETHING CALM.

I THINK OF...JACOB'S LADDER...

beepbeep

THAT'S GOOD.

beepbeep

IT WAS...

YOU COULDN'T SEE THE TOP OF THE LADDER.

beepbeep

BUT... REMEMBER... EVERYONE...TOLD STORIES...

WHAT WAS...UP THERE...

beepbeep

OUT OF...

...GRANNY'S REACH.

beepbeep

IT WAS... *HEAVEN.*

beepbeep

NNNGGGNNN

beepbeep

I REMEMBER... BEFORE WE...GOT *TOGETHER.*

SEEING YOU...

beepbeep

TRYING TO CLIMB... ESCAPE... ON THE LADDER...

WITH...ALL THE ***FURIES...*** WE WERE ALL ***CHASING*** YOU.

ABOUT TO GET YOU.

beepbeep

AND YOU'D LOOK BACK DOWN... AT US.

AND YOU'D WAVE, AND... AND ***SMILE,*** BOW.

AND YOU WERE SO HANDSOME, AND YOU'D SAY, "I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE!"

beepbeep

AND THEN WE'D... I...

GOT YOU.

beepbeep

YOU'RE DOING GREAT, MOM!

WE'RE ALMOST READY TO PUSH.

beepbeep

I WANT YOU TO HOLD ONE OF HER LEGS BACK LIKE THIS.

beepbeep

CAN I PUSH NOW?

I REALLY WANT TO PUSH.

beepbeep

YOU'RE DOING GREAT, HONEY!

beepbeep

OKAY, HERE WE GO, MS. BARDA.

WE'RE ALMOST READY HERE.

beepbeep

I LOVE YOU.

beepbeep

NNNGGGG

beepbeep

OKAY, MOM, LET'S DO A PUSH NOW.

BREATHE IN, *FFFT FFFT FFFT,* THEN PUSH OUT.

beepbeep

GRRRRNNNAAA!

beepbeep

GOOD, GREAT, YOU'RE DOING GREAT.

GGGNNNNN

YAY, MOM.

beepbeep

OKAY, A BIG PUSH NOW, HERE WE GO.

GGGGAAANNNN

beepbeep

YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THIS, YOU'RE DOING AMAZING.

YEAH, SWEETIE, IT'S... I CAN SEE IT.

NNNNNN

ALL RIGHT, REMEMBER YOUR BREATHS, KEEP BREATHING.

GGGNNNAANN

JESUS.

GREAT, GREAT, HARDEST PART IS DONE, HEAD IS THROUGH.

IS HE OKAY?

ONE LAST PUSH, YOU'RE ALMOST THERE.

GRRNNNNGGGG

YOU'RE AMAZING, YOU'RE THERE, THE BABY IS HERE.

NURSE, CLAMP AND SCISSORS.

IS HE OUT?

WHAT'S... WRONG...?

SHOULDN'T HE...CRY?

HE'S GOT THE CORD AROUND IT.

IT'S FINE, EVERYTHING'S FINE.

IT CAN'T GET THROUGH! IT'S LIKE STEEL!

DO WE HAVE ANYTHING SHARPER?!

PAGE SURGICAL, SEE WHAT THEY HAVE!

I'M NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS HERE!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME!

Darkseid is.

TELL FRANCIS WE NEED THE BONE CUTTER!

WITH THE DIAMOND BLADE!

TELL HIM WE NEED IT ***NOW!***

NOW!

THIS'LL... WORK.

WHERE...

SKK

WAAAAAAAA!

HIS NAME'S JACOB.

AND BARDA?

SHE'S GREAT.

SHE'S...

SO STRONG.

YES.

SHE WAS *ALWAYS* STRONGEST.

OH SWEET LITTLE JACOB!

IT'S FINALLY TIME TO WAKE UP!

REALITY IS ABOUT TO BREAK UP!

THANKS FOR THIS.

IT HELPED.

I AM GLAD.

AS I SAID BEFORE, WHEN WE RETURN TO THE WAR...

...I WILL USE IT TO *KILL* YOU.

OKAY.

I LIKE HIM.

I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP HIM.

GRANDSON OF DARKSEID.

SON OF HIGHFATHER.

THE FIRST CHILD BORN OF APOKOLIPS AND NEW GENESIS.

A NEW GOD.

JUST LIKE A LUMP.

A LITTLE MIRACLE.

I DON'T KNOW...

HE LOOKS MORE LIKE A...

THINK OF THE MOST FEROCIOUS, MIND-SHATTERING FIGHT THAT HAS EVER TAKEN PLACE!!!

AND IT WILL FALL PITIFULLY SHORT OF WHAT AWAITS OUR--

MISTER MIRACLE!!!

ONLY THE ARENA OF THE GODS WOULD PRODUCE THIS COMBAT!!!

ONLY VILE GRANNY GOODNESS WOULD FIND AN ADVERSARY LIKE--

THE LUMP!!!

ONLY SCOTT FREE HAS A CHANCE TO SURVIVE--

--THE BATTLE OF THE ID!!

WAAAAAAA!!!

Hush little baby, don't say a word.

APOKOLIPS!

A WORLD WITHOUT MERCY!

A JUNGLE OF THE SUPER-STRONG!!

THE CREATION OF EVIL GODS WHOSE CODE IS SHAPE UP--

--OR DIE!!!

UNABLE TO ESCAPE THE LONG ARM OF THAT CODE--

--SCOTT FREE AND BIG BARDA HAVE RETURNED--TO FACE...

Click

THE BATTLE OF THE ID!

BAM

SEND IN THE SIXTH AND THE FOURTH WINGED CAVALRY.

BUT HOLD THE BUGS IN RESERVE IN PREP FOR A COUNTER.

YES, HIGHFATHER.

BIG BARDA USES THE KETTLE!

I LIKE THE MICROWAVE.

THE KETTLE IS FASTER!

THAT'S WHAT BIG BARDA SAYS!

bee bee bee

WELL, THAT'S GOOD, BUT IT'S TUESDAY.

SO BARDA'S AT THE FRONT.

AND I'M AT THE MICROWAVE.

WHATEVER *YOU* SAY, *BOSS!*

AH, BUT DON'T WE MISS THE *BOISTEROUS* BABE OF BABYLON?

THAT POOP FROM THIS MORNING IS STILL ON THE CHANGING MAT THING.

YOU MIND GETTING THAT? JUST PUT IT IN THE MACHINE.

WE'LL HAVE TO RUN A LOAD ANYWAY.

EXCELSIOR!

HUSH LITTLE BABY, DON'T SAY A WORD.
DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A MOCKING BIRD.
AND IF THAT MOCKING BIRD WON'T SING...
DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A DIAMOND RING.
IF THAT DIAMOND RING TURNS BRASS...
DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A LOOKING GLASS.
AND IF THAT LOOKING GLASS GETS BROKE...
DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A BILLY GOAT.
AND IF THAT BILLY GOAT WON'T PULL...

THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

DON'T STOP!

C'MON!

C'MON!

B2OO

B2OO

B2OO

LNNGGG

GGGG

GGGNNN

NNNGG

NO!!

ESCAPE!!

AAAA!

GGNNN!

DON'T LET THEM--

AAAA!

GNNN

THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

AAAA!

NO!

AAAA!

BETWEEN, LIKE, ONE AND THREE HE WAS OUT.

IT HAD TO BE TWO HOURS.

IS THAT GOOD?

IT'S THE BEST HE'S DONE WHEN HE'S NOT IN THE CAR.

WE SHOULD JUST DRIVE ALL NIGHT.

WE'D GET MORE REST THAN WHATEVER THIS IS.

BETTY PUT HER KID IN THE CAR SEAT IN THEIR ROOM FOR A YEAR.

SHE SAID IT WORKED.

I'M SO TIRED, I MIGHT TRY IT.

I READ THAT YOU FORGET THIS PART LATER. SOMEHOW.

IT'S EVOLUTION OR GOD.

THAT'S WHY PEOPLE KEEP HAVING THESE THINGS.

THEY FORGET THE PAIN.

FUNKY!

MISTER MIRACLE!

WHAT IS THAT?

WHY, BOSS...

THAT'S *BATMAN!*

I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T PUT THINGS IN THE CRIB.

THEY HAVE STUDIES ABOUT INFANT DEATH SYNDROME. BABIES DYING.

STUFF IN THE CRIB, IT CAN KILL THEM.

WHAT?!

I HAD A BATMAN! *EVERYONE* HAS A BATMAN!

BATMAN DOESN'T KILL *BABIES!*

YES. ABSOLUTELY.

THEY HAVE STUDIES.

BATMAN KILLS BABIES.

IT'S WRONG.

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TUBES.

ALL THAT HAS TO BE FOCUSED ON ***GETTING*** THE SUPPLIES HERE.

WE ***DON'T*** HAVE ROOM TO BRING MUCH BACK.

ORION WOULDN'T--

ORION ISN'T.

AND DARKSEID IS.

GET IT DONE.

NOW.

YOU WANT TO BE A ***GOD***, SCOTT.

BUT YOU'RE JUST PLAYING ***ANOTHER*** ROLE ON ***ANOTHER*** STAGE.

AND YOU'RE ***SAD*** EVERYONE'S NOT CLAPPING.

LOOK...

JUST MAKE IT CLEAN.

BZOOO

BZOOO

HE TRIED TO LAUGH.

IT WAS SO FUNNY.

I WAS HOLDING HIM, IN THE LIVING ROOM.

AND HE WAS DOING HIS **SMILING** THING.

HE'S SUCH A FLIRT.

AND I GAVE HIM A ZERBERT ON HIS ARM.

THEN ON HIS NECK.

AND WHEN I WAS ZERBERTING HIS NECK, HE STARTED TO MAKE THIS NOISE.

JUST KIND OF AN, "AH AH AH AH."

AND I WAS LIKE, "WHAT WAS THAT?!?"

AND I REALIZE THAT'S HIS LAUGH.

OR AT LEAST THE BEST HE CAN DO.

WHERE'S BARDA?

SHE'S AT WORK. WE SWITCH OFF.

WE WORK AT THE SAME PLACE, AND THERE'S...LOTS OF WORK.

SO IF SHE'S HERE, I'M THERE. AND... THE OTHER WAY.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

SHE SAID.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TEMPORARY WHILE WE TRANSITIONED TO THE NANNY.

BUT WE JUST HAVEN'T STOPPED YET.

WE WERE BOTH RAISED PRETTY ALONE.

AND I THINK IT'S TOUGH. TO LEAVE HIM.

BUT WE SHOULD.

I KNOW HOW THAT IS.

YOU GET STUCK IN THESE THINGS.

IT'S SO HARD TO GET OUT.

GHOO

YEAH.

IT IS...

HE SAYS YOU CHALLENGED KANTO TO A ONE ON ONE.

LOSER TAKES THEIR ARMY AND GOES.

HE SAYS KANTO'S READY **NOW**, OR I GUESS THEY'RE GOING TO CHARGE.

#%$%@!

I...I FORGOT...

I'M ALREADY AT THE DOCTOR.

I KNOW, I'M SORRY.

I NEED TO ASK HER ABOUT THE FEEDINGS.

I COULD DO THE APPOINTMENT...

SCOTT, WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT **MY** BREASTS...

YOU STAY, I'LL DO KANTO.

I'M SORRY.

NO, IT'LL BE EASY.

JUST LET ME KNOW HOW IT GOES.

$%#@!

KNNRRG

POW

RNKGG

GGHHH

CKKNNG

MOd

UHKKGN

MOd

GNNKK

POW

NNGUU

GUH.

UGNNG

POW

SHE SAID IT'S NORMAL.

THAT'S GOOD. I LIKE NORMAL.

HOW DID IT GO WITH KANTO?

WE'RE... LEAVING THE FIELD.

WE'LL DO AN APPROACH FROM THE EAST IN THE FALL.

IT'LL BE BETTER.

I'M SORRY.

NO, I'M SORRY. I... I ALMOST HAD HIM.

I'M SURE YOU DID.

I WAS THINKING, WE SHOULD TRY THAT CAR SEAT THING.

WHO KNOWS.

I AGREE.

WE GOT TO TRY.

ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.

SEE! HE *HATES* IT!

AAAAA!!!

AAA!!!

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE CRAWLING ALREADY.

HE *NEEDS* TUMMY TIME.

OH *BALDERDASH!* *JOLLY JACK* KNOWS WHAT *JOLLY JACK* NEEDS!

AAA!

HE NEEDS HIS *FUNKY!*

WHO'S A LITTLE FUNKY?!?

ARE *YOU* A LITTLE FUNKY?!?

THIS... THIS IS NOT HOW GRANNY DID IT.

CAN YOU SAY FUNNNNKY?!

GOOGGH!

YOU'RE A GENIUS! *GENIUS JACK!*

I'M GOING TO MAKE A SANDWICH.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH IT?

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD KIDS.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE CLONED OR SOMETHING.

MAYBE IT'S NOT A KID.

MAYBE IT'S A SMALL ONE.

YOU'RE FROM HERE.

DO THEY COME IN DIFFERENT SIZES?

RRRRRGGH!

GRRRGGGHHHH!

LIGHTRAY...

BLOOP

GRRRGGGHH

WAIT--

BLOOP

NO!

WHAT?
NO, FASTBACK SHOULD ***ALREADY*** BE IN THE FOREST OF TEARS.
AND HERE COMES THE ***CHOOCHOO*** TRAIN!
HE SAYS THERE'S 50,000 DEMONS AT CRETINS' CREEK.
HE NEEDS REINFORCEMENTS TO ADVANCE.
CHOOOCHOO!
THAT...
THERE AREN'T 50,000 DEMONS IN ***ALL*** OF THE WESTERN PITS.
GAH!
YOU'RE PREACHING TO THE PREACHER.
C'MON, ***JUMPING JACK!***
DON'T YOU WANT TO BE A TUNNEL FOR A TRAIN?!
MAYBE YOU COULD TAKE THE 7TH FROM FASTBACK AND--
SCOTT...
CHOOOCHOO!
THIS IS JUST A LULL.
THE 1ST HAS TO MOVE IN THE MORNING.
GHEE!
HOW ABOUT AN ***AIRPLANE?!?*** A ***JET*** PLANE?!
I CAN'T LEAVE THEM.
WHY CAN'T FASTBACK UNDERSTAND...
THIS IS A GODDAMN WAR!
HERE'S THE AIRPLANE! ZOOM!
WHAT THE ***HELL*** DOES HE THINK ***WAR*** IS?!
GOOH!

AAAAA!

AAAAA!!!

AAAAA!

AAAAA!

AAAAA!

GGNNNN

NNNNNN

GRNN

AAAAA!

C'MON, JAKEY.

I'M RIGHT HERE.

WALK TO DADDY!

BARDA, CAN YOU SEE?!

I CAN SEE.

YOU CAN DO IT, BUDDY.

JUST GO.

I CAN'T SEE BARDA! I DON'T THINK SHE CAN SEE!

FUNKY, DAMMIT, NOW ALL I CAN SEE IS YOUR %$#@ NOSE HAIR!

POINT IT BACK!

I'M RIGHT HERE, BUDDY.

DADDY'S NOT GOING TO LET YOU FALL.

GOOD JOB, BUDDY.

YOU DID SO GOOD.

THAT'S MY JACK! HE'S THE KING!

HOLY @#%@!

HUSH, LITTLE BABY...

DON'T...

DON'T SAY A WORD...

DADDY'S GOING TO... TO...

GET YOU A...

MOCKINGBIRD...

Darkseid is.

PING

SCOTT, LISTEN TO THIS!

YOU GOT TO HEAR IT!

FUNKY, SHOW HIM THE PICTURE!

NO, THE ONE FROM BEFORE!

DAH!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, SCOTT?!

NNN

DO IT AGAIN, SHOW IT AGAIN!

SCOTT, LISTEN, HE DOES IT EVERY TIME.

AND...

EVERY TIME HE SEES YOUR FACE.

IF THAT... MOCKINGBIRD WON'T SING...

DAH!

DAH!

DADDY...

SCOTT, CAN YOU HEAR IT?

DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU...

A GODDAMN DIAMOND RING.

FUNKY, JUST GIVE ME THE $%@#ING PICTURE!

CAMPBELL PULLS BACK, LAUNCHES LONG.

HE'S GOT KRISTY OPEN ON THE LEFT.

INTERCEPTED!

OH! MY! GOODNESS! AGAIN?!?

HE'S DOWN.

click

THE TWO OF US? TOGETHER?

NO SCREAMING?

THIS IS A MIRACLE.

I THINK FUNKY'S GETTING THE HANG OF IT.

I'M SURE WE COULD...

YEAH. WE COULD BE FREE.

BUT...I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE JUST A *LITTLE* LONGER.

Y'KNOW. HE'S STILL JUST MY LITTLE GUY. I'D *MISS* HIM.

OKAY, MISTER HIGHFATHER, LORDDEITY OF THE FOURTH WORLD.

CO-LEADER OF THE ARMIES OF NEW GENESIS.

A LITTLE LONGER. 'CAUSE YOU'LL MISS HIM.

MY GOD, BARDA.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE?

THEY KILL HIM HERE!

WHAAAAAA!!!

THEY KILL HIM THERE!

WHAAAAA!!!

YOUR TURN.

THEY KILL HIM EVERYWHERE.

WHAAAAAA!

I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE.

CAN YOU?

BUT HE ALWAYS TURNS UP ALIVE!

WHAAAAA!

WHAAA! WHAAAA!

COME HERE, BUDDY.

WHAAAA.

HUSH LITTLE BABY, DON'T SAY A WORD.

GAH!

DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A MOCKING BIRD.

DAH.

AND IF THAT MOCKING BIRD WON'T SING...

DAH. DAH.

On the outside you're beautiful...

DAY 1.

THE HEART OF APOKOLIPS LIES BEYOND THE GREYBORDERS--

ACROSS THE DARKENING ROAD TO LONGSHADOW!--

THROUGH THE CLANKING HORRORS OF NIGHT-TIME!--

COME AND STAY.

COME AND PLAY.

NEVER EVER GO AWAY.

AND RISES WHITE HOT--

AAAAAAA!!!

AT THE RAGING, HISSING INFERNOS OF THE PLANETARY FIRE-PITS!

THE RAW AND DIRTY EDGE FROM WHICH GREAT DARKSEID DRAWS A MAMMOTH POWER!

--AND FEEDS UPON A MIGHTY FEAR.

IS THERE A RESTROOM?

OR SOMETHING.

I CAN TAKE HIM.

ALL RIGHT, I THINK THAT WORKS.

WE SHOULD BREAK FOR FIVE ANYWAY.

PLEASE. FOLLOW ME.

BEFORE WE GET INTO THESE CHARTS ON POSSIBLE TROOP REDUCTION NUMBERS.

IT'S NOT FAR.

JUST DOWN THE HALL.

BUT YOU CAN GET *LOST* IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE *TWISTS.*

HOW LONG SINCE YOU BEEN HOME?

PROPERLY, NOT INVADING OR FIGHTING, I MEAN.

IT'S BEEN *A WHILE.*

I LIVED IN RENAISSANCE ITALY.

FOR A *FEW* YEARS.

I *LOVED* IT, BUT I NEVER GO BACK.

I MEAN TO...

THERE'S ALWAYS A *WAR*, THERE'S NEVER THE *TIME.*

RIGHT?

RIGHT.

I READ IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOLAR WINDS.

THE WAY THEY...*GO*, I GUESS.

I THINK THE *WEATHER* HERE'S GOTTEN BETTER.

PROBABLY SINCE YOU WERE LAST HERE.

A LITTLE *LESS* HOT IN THE SUMMER.

OH.

REALLY?

YEAH, I GUESS IT'S THE WINDS.

YOU CAN *REALLY* FEEL IT.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE SCREAMING AND THE...

THE SORT OF *EVERYDAY* GENOCIDE OF IT ALL.

HELL, THIS PLACE'D BE ALMOST TOLERABLE!

I HAD A THING WITH LEONARDO.

DA VINCI.

THE PAINTER, Y'KNOW.

YEAH.

LIKE THE *MONA LISA.*

I KNOW WHO HE IS.

HE WAS ALL RIGHT.

HE HAD A ***BOYFRIEND.*** BUT...

Y'KNOW, IT WAS ONE OF THOSE ***COMPLICATED*** WHATEVERS.

BUT IT WAS NICE.

REAL NICE.

AFTERWARD, WE'RE LYING THERE.

LIKE ON HAY OR GRASS OR SOMETHING.

ANYWAY, WE'RE ***LYING*** THERE AND HE STARTS CRYING.

I THOUGHT IT WAS THE BOYFRIEND OR SOME RELIGIOUS *BLAH DA DEE BLAH.*

AND I TELL HIM, "IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY."

I DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAY AND GRASS.

AND HE STARTS TELLING ME THIS STORY.

ABOUT THESE TWO GUYS.

A ***MASTER*** AND HIS ***APPRENTICE.***

ARTISTS.

AND I'M LIKE, "WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE PRICE OF TEA IN CHINA?

AND HE'S JUST LIKE, "SHHHH."

"LISTEN."

SO, THE APPRENTICE THINKS HE'S *BETTER* THAN HIS MASTER.

"AND HE CHALLENGES THIS MASTER TO A CONTEST

"A *PAINTING* CONTEST. PAINT THE BETTER PAINTING.

"THEY TAKE A WHOLE *YEAR* TO FINISH THEM.

"AND THEN THEY BOTH SHOW UP IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE.

"THEY'RE OUTSIDE, RIGHT? WITH A CROWD. AND THE TWO OF THEM GOT THEIR PAINTINGS.

"AND THE APPRENTICE PULLS BACK THE *CURTAIN* ON HIS ART.

"AND ALL IT IS, AFTER A *YEAR* OF WORK, IS JUST SOME *GRAPES*.

"NOT EVEN A LOT. LIKE *SIX* OR FEWER. ON A PLATE OR SOMETHING.

"AND THE APPRENTICE IS, LIKE STANDING *PROUD*, CHEST OUT.

"AND THE AUDIENCE IS LIKE, WHAT? *GRAPES*? NICE GRAPES. YEAH. BUT AGAINST *THE MASTER*?

"HE'S *CRACKED* OR HE'S *INSANE* OR HE JUST COULDN'T DO IT.

"AND THE APPRENTICE IGNORES *THAT* AND JUST ALL CALMLY COOL LOOKS UP AT THE SKY.

"AND THERE'RE SOME *BIRDS* THERE, RIGHT? FLYING.

"AND THEY START FLYING *TOWARD* THE *PICTURE*.

"AND THEN THESE BIRDS START *PECKING* AT THE PICTURE

"TRYING TO *EAT* THE GRAPES. BECAUSE THEY'RE SO GOOD, THEY'RE *SO* PERFECT.

"TO THE BIRDS, IT ISN'T *ART*, IT'S JUST *WHAT IS*, AND WHAT'S BETTER THAN WHAT IS?

"AND THE AUDIENCE GOES *NUTS*. CHEERING AND HUZZAH-ING!

"THE APPRENTICE IS *BOWING* AND *SMILING*. POINTING AT THE *BIRDS*.

"HE'S *WON*, HE KNOWS HE'S WON, AND HE TURNS TO THE MASTER, POINTS AT THE MASTER'S PAINTING.

"AND HE SAYS, 'ALL RIGHT, NOT THAT THERE'S A NEED...

"'BUT LET'S SEE WHAT'S BEHIND *YOUR* CURTAIN.'

"AND THE *MASTER* SAYS

"WHAT CURTAIN?"

splt

DAY 2.

peeft

YOU HAVE THE RATE OF *WITHDRAWAL* FOR THE MOUNTAINS OF BLOOD AT...

...38 DAYS, BUT IT'S NOT CLEAR IF WE'RE WORKING OFF THE NG CALENDAR.

OBVIOUSLY, *WE'D* HAVE A DIFFERENT APPROACH IF THIS WERE AN AP CALENDAR.

YEAH, I BELIEVE THAT WAS THE NG CALENDAR.

DO YOU HAVE THAT, LIGHTRAY?

WHAT?

THE...UHM... MOUNTAINS OF BLOOD WITHDRAWAL.

THAT WAS AN ***NG CALENDAR*** CALCULATION, RIGHT?

LIGHTRAY?

YOU APOKOLIPS ***SCUM!***

YOU KILLED ***ORION!*** MY ***FRIEND!*** MY ***LORD!*** MY ***SAVIOR!***

I WILL ***BURN*** ALL OF YOU! I WILL ***LAUGH*** AS I WATCH YOUR ***ASHES*** FLOAT AWAY IN A MILD WIND!

OH, SHUT THE @$%# UP, LIGHTRAY.

LET'S JUST ***ASSUME*** WE'RE ON THE NG CALENDAR.

WE CAN GO BACK AND RED-LINE THAT WHEN WE PUT TOGETHER THE, *UH...*

FINAL AGREEMENT.

DAY 3.

THIS IS TAKING *FOREVER.*

IT IS...

...TAKING FOREVER.

IS THAT BONEWINE?

MAAAYBE.

YOU GET THAT FROM BERNADETH?

MAAAYBE.

I USED TO DRINK *THAT.* *GRANNY* WOULD MAKE YOU.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT *IS?* GRANNY'S *SECRET?* HIGHFATHER TOLD ME.

FERMENTED *BONE* MARROW. OF CAPTURED *GODS.*

BARDA...

I USED TO *BREW* IT.

WITH GRANNY AND THE FURIES.

GET A GOD FROM THE PILE, CUT HIM, COLLECT, MIX, BARREL, ALL OF IT.

WE'D HAVE TO DELIVER A CERTAIN AMOUNT TO YOUR DAD.

BUT IT WAS A LONG TRIP TO THE *HELCASTLE.*

WE'D DRINK *HALF* THE SUPPLY ON THE WAY.

WHEN WE GOT THERE...

...YOUR DAD WOULD BE... *SO* MAD.

YEAH, WELL...

...I WOULDN'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.

HE WAS *ALWAYS* MAD.

IT'S GOOD.

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE...

DAY 4.

YOU AGREED TO THOSE TERMS *TWO* DAYS AGO!

BRINGING IN THE SUNSWORD COMMISSION REPORT AT THIS STAGE IS *PREPOSTEROUS!*

NO!

WHAT IS PREPOSTEROUS IS ANY AGREEMENT ON *PRISONER EXCHANGE!*

WITHOUT THE RULES SET FORTH BY THE *COMMISSION!*

WHICH IS SOMETHING YOU COULD HAVE RAISED *TWO DAYS AGO!*

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT YOU *RAISE!*

IF YOU DISCUSS *PRISONER EXCHANGES,* YOU ARE DISCUSSING *THE COMMISSION!*

THAT'S HOW THE WHOLE DAMN SYSTEM *WORKS!*

TYPICAL NEW GENESIS LEGALISM.

NOTHING IS WHATEVER IT ACTUALLY IS.

TYPICAL APOKOLIPS LIES.

EVERYTHING IS *JUST* WHAT IT IS. A *LIE.*

YOU ARE THE LIE!

A SON OF DARKSEID *BETRAYING* HIS PEOPLE!

A *%$%# STAIN* ON THE NAME OF *GOD!*

AND WHAT ARE *YOU?!*

THE *FORGOTTEN* CHILD! THE *MISTAKE!*

ONLY REASON HE LIKES *YOU* IS BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE *LEFT!*

RRRRRRRR...

ARRRR!

GRRRUH!

NO...

GHAAAA!!!

KKKNNCH

GRRRAAAH!

HHH HHH HHH...

AAAAAA!!!

AAAAAA!!!

IS IT ENOUGH?

TELL *HIM* ABOUT YOUR %$@#ING *COMMISSION!*

KALIBAK, ***BROTHER.*** WHEN WILL YOU ***FINALLY*** LEARN?

I'M NOT SOME NEW GENESIS TODDLER. I AM NOT ***ORION,*** EAGER TO PLAY YOUR GAMES.

I AM ***GRANNY-RAISED.***

GRRNNNN...

AND I DON'T WASTE TIME ON THE DEAD.

PRISONER EXCHANGES WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE ***FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION.***

THAT'S IT!

THAT'S THE ***$$#@ING*** END OF IT!

HNNN.

WHATEVER.

Darkseid is.

JESUS CHRIST.

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

KITKLOUD WAS ALREADY GOING TO GO.

THAT WAS A ***BETTER*** WAY TO GO.

MY TEETH ARE ***C-C-CLATTERING.***

CAN YOU H-H-HEAR THEM?

AFTER THE PEACE, IN THE ***NEXT*** WAR...

...WE'LL GET KALIBAK...

...AND CUT HIS HEAD OFF.

IF I B-BREATHE, THEY DON'T CLATTER.

BUT IF I S-S-STOP B-BREATHING...

DON'T STOP BREATHING.

YOU SMELL THAT?

THEY'RE BURNING THE DEAD? AGAIN?

AND AT ***THIS*** TIME OF NIGHT?

OKAY.

DAY 5.

I BROUGHT YOU A GIFT.

TO *CELEBRATE* THE *PROGRESS* WE'VE MADE HERE.

TO *HONOR* WHAT WE HAVE ALMOST *ACCOMPLISHED*.

I THINK YOU WILL *LIKE* IT.

WONDERFUL.

sldda

THE...

THE *MIRROR OF GOODNESS*.

WHEN YOU MENTIONED DEAR *GRANNY* YESTERDAY I THOUGHT OF IT.

AND... SHE'S NOT *USING* IT ANYMORE...

...BECAUSE YOU *KILLED* HER...

IT'S A ***NEGOTIATING*** TACTIC.

HE'S TRYING TO GET IN YOUR HEAD.

I KNOW.

BUT NOW HE'S ***IN*** MY HEAD.

IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD.

SO NOW WHAT?

THROW IT INTO A PIT.

THEY HAVE A ***FEW*** PITS AROUND HERE.

YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE.

DID GRANNY TAKE YOU TO THE MIRROR?

OH YEAH.

ME, TOO.

AFTER EVERY CORRECTIVE SURGERY. EVERY SKIN GRAFT.

EVERY LASER REMOVAL OF WHATEVER SHE'D DONE TO MAKE US LOOK.

AND SHE'D SAY THE ***SAME*** THING.

"ON THE OUTSIDE YOU'RE ***BEAUTIFUL...***"

"AND ON THE ***INSIDE...***

"...YOU'RE MINE."

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE.

PING

EYES OPEN, EYES CLOSE.

BUT DO THEY SEE YOU AND ME?

GOODNESS KNOWS.

DAY 6.

NO.

WHAT I DID.

WHAT I *ENDURED.* WHAT *WE* ENDURED.

WHAT THIS *PLACE* DOES TO... *EVERYONE.*

WHAT *DARKSEID* DOES TO *ANYONE...*

NO.

MY PEOPLE WILL *FIGHT.*

AND THEY WILL RISE AGAIN. *VICTORIOUS.*

AND THEY WILL *BLEED.* AND THEY WILL *FALL.*

AND AS YOU LIE *DEFEATED, HUMILIATED* AT THEIR *FEET!*

THEY WILL SHOUT IN YOUR *IGNORANT, DEAD* FACES!

NO.

NO!

NO!

YOU DID PRETTY WELL.

I MEAN, DARKSEID STILL GETS THE ***ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.***

BUT CAN HE USE IT WITH ALL ***YOU*** GOT THERE?

IT'S PEACE.

IT STOPS THINGS.

KALIBAK SEEMS MAD.

THAT'S GOT TO BE NICE FOR YOU.

YOU REMEMBER THAT THING WITH DA VINCI?

THE PAINTER?

FROM, LIKE, THE ***FIRST*** DAY.

YEAH.

YOU KNOW, I MADE THAT UP.

I ***TRIED*** TO GET WITH HIM, BUT HE WASN'T HAVING ME.

HE HAD A BOYFRIEND, THAT PART WAS TRUE.

WHAT?

WHY?

I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS...

...YOU PISS WITH THE ***SON OF GOD,*** YOU GOT TO SAY ***SOMETHING.***

EVEN IF IT AIN'T TRUE.

I'M GOING IN.

YOU'RE INSANE.

AAAA!

IT BURNS... MORE...THAN I REMEMBER...

BUT IT'S NOT... HORRIBLE?

IT'S THE *FIRELAKES.*

IT'S HORRIBLE.

C'MON, IT'S OUR *LAST* DAY.

TOMORROW WILL BE *ALL* FUNKY AND JAKE.

JUMP IN. WE GOT TO DO *SOMETHING.*

WE WERE GOING TO LOSE.

I KNOW.

OUR FORCES ARE FALLING, *FAILING.*

HE HAS THE *EQUATION,* HE HAS *EVERYTHING.*

EVERYTHING WOULD BE HIM. IF... IT'S THE BEST...

SCOTT, IT'S OVER.

WE DID IT. THE AGREEMENT'S *DONE.*

THEY STAY *HERE,* WE STAY *THERE.* PEACE.

NOW C'MON...

JUMP.

DAY 7.

FATHER HAS...

...REJECTED OUR...

DARKSEID DOES *NOT* AGREE TO *THESE* TERMS.

WHAT?!

YOU *SAID* YOU HAD HIS *COMPLETE* AUTHORITY!

I'M GOING TO *KILL* YOU.

NOW.

HE HAS...

...MADE A... AN *ALTERNATIVE* PROPOSITION.

ONE THAT GOES *FURTHER* THAN...WE HAVE.

DOESN'T MATTER.

STILL GOING TO KILL YOU.

STILL NOW.

DARKSEID IS WILLING TO WITHDRAW *ALL* FORCES. *IMMEDIATELY.* RETURN ALL PRISONERS.

FURTHER, HE WOULD *DISARM* AND ALLOW A NEW GENESIS FORCE TO *INSPECT* APOKOLIPS.

FINALLY, HE WOULD...*SURRENDER* THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION*...

WHAT?

THAT'S...YOU SAID...

THAT WASN'T EVEN ON THE TABLE.

IN RETURN FOR THIS... *COMPLETE* CAPITULATION.

DARKSEID, *HUMBLY,* ASKS ONLY *ONE* THING.

WHAT?

HE ASKS FOR CUSTODY OF HIS ONLY GRANDCHILD, *JACOB FREE.*

HE ASKS THAT THE BOY BE *RAISED* ON APOKOLIPS.

THAT HE BE RAISED HERE AS THE ONE, TRUE HEIR TO *DARKSEID.*

DON'T GET JUMPY!

IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET.

THOUGH DARKSEID IS ABROAD...

THUS, FROM THIS HEAVY FRAGMENT OF "MISTER MIRACLE--PAST!"

...THE FUTURE IS STILL FREE TO ALL!!

WE MOVE TO THE MOST EXCITING AND DANGEROUS CHAPTER OF...

"MISTER MIRACLE--

WHAT?

"--TO BE!"

NICK
DERINGTON

I had to escape.

I was in a bad place.

FROM THE VIOLENT WORLD OF APOKOLIPS--

--A SMALL BAND OF REFUGEES FINDS ITS WAY...

BOOM

...TO EARTH!

HGZZZGGGKH

BOOM

THEY HASTILY LEAP FROM THE BOOM TUBE WHICH LINKS BOTH WORLDS!

WHAAAAAA!

AND SCAN THEIR SURROUNDING WITH STARTLED SURPRISE.

GGRAAAAA!

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE THEY HAD EXPECTED TO SEE!

KHGHKKHGLLKK

GHAAAAAA!

BUT IT'S ENOUGH THAT THEY ARE HERE!

MWAAAAAA!

BIG BARDA, SCOTT FREE, AND THE MISTER MIRACLE TO BE!

GHAA!

GHAA!

I JUST NEED A COLOR.

THEN WE CAN GO OFF AND BE A TEAM.

AND FIGHT.

AND WE'LL HAVE A GOOD NAME.

BLUE AND GOLD!

AND RED!

AND GREEN!

AND YELLOW...

IT'S PRETTY LATE.

LET ME GET THE CHECK.

BOOST! YOU GOT A TIME MACHINE, RIGHT?

CAN'T WE FIX PRETTY LATE?

HA, YEAH.

BUT I THINK I LEFT IT AT THE HOTEL, MAN.

SORRY.

IT SAYS THE BOOM TUBE'LL BE HERE IN THREE MINUTES.

AREN'T THOSE THINGS INSTANT?

WAR!

IT MESSES $%^@ UP!

BWA. HA. HA.

YEAH.

I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME.

IT'LL BE OKAY, MAN.

YEAH, ***WHATEVER*** YOU DECIDE. YOU AND BARDA.

WE'RE ***HERE,*** Y'KNOW, WHATEVER.

I GOT TO STOP THE WAR...THEY'RE ALL ***DYING...***

BUT HOW AM I GOING TO...GIVE AWAY MY...

HE'S JUST MY ***LITTLE GUY...*** I CAN'T...

PiNG

WAIT.

NOW IT SAYS ***FOUR*** MINUTES.

HOW ARE THE GUYS?

I SHOULD DRINK SOME, LIKE...

WATER.

JUST DON'T ***PUKE.***

YOU KNOW ***HOW MUCH*** PUKE I CLEAN UP ON A ***DAILY*** BASIS?

I'M NOT CLEANING UP YOUR PUKE.

TED SAID HE DRINKS THAT STUFF THAT ***OLD PEOPLE*** DRINK.

WHAT'S THAT CALLED? HE SAID IT.

HE SAYS YOU DON'T GET ***ANYTHING*** AFTER THEN.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

JAKE'S GOING TO BE ***UP*** IN, LIKE, ***TWO*** HOURS.

GOLD AND BLUE AND GREEN AND RED AND YELLOW...

HEH.

WE NEED TO GET A CAKE FOR JAKE'S BIRTHDAY.

HE LIKES BATMAN, MAYBE A BATMAN CAKE.

BATMAN? NO WAY.

REMEMBER...

BATMAN KILLS BABIES.

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A WHOLE ***BIG*** THING.

HE'S NOT GOING TO EVEN REMEMBER IT.

MAYBE WE JUST INVITE, LIKE, A ***FEW*** OF THE JL PEOPLE.

MAYBE SOME OF THE BACKSTAGE GUYS.

I THINK WE SHOULD ***PROBABLY*** HAVE ***FUNKY*** THERE.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S HIS DAY OFF, WE'LL TELL HIM NOT TO WORK.

BUT I DON'T THINK FUNKY CAN BE AROUND JAKE AND NOT WORK.

BUT WE CAN TELL HIM.

I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO SAY STUFF.

BUT I THINK WE ***HAVE TO*** INVITE THE FURIES.

I DON'T GET TO SEE THEM WHEN WE'RE NOT PUNCHING EACH OTHER.

AND IT'D BE FUN, AND THEY'D LIKE IT.

I READ THAT, LIKE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT ***A CELEBRATION.***

FOR US. NOT HIM. SINCE HE WON'T REALLY KNOW.

HE JUST SEES CAKE AND TOYS.

BUT FOR US, IT'S, LIKE...

IT'S BEEN A WHOLE YEAR.

AND ***HE'S*** ALIVE AND ***WE'RE*** ALIVE.

WE MADE IT.

THIS ONE.
WITH BATMAN.
YOU WANT IT TO SAY ANYTHING?

SURE, JUST "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JACOB."
J-A-C-O-B. WITH AN EXCLAMATION POINT.
"JACOB!"
THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON

WHEN YOU NEED IT BY?

I...
I'M NOT SURE.
HIS MOTHER WANTS TO DO IT ON HIS BIRTHDAY.
THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON

BUT HIS BIRTHDAY ISN'T UNTIL SUNDAY.
AND THERE'S THIS WORK THING WHERE... ON SATURDAY.
THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON
WHERE HE MIGHT...HAVE TO GO AWAY FOR... FOR THIS WORK THING.

OKAY.

SO MAYBE WE SHOULD MAKE IT SOONER.
THAN HIS BIRTHDAY. HIS BIRTHDAY IS ON SUNDAY.
WORK THING IS ON SATURDAY.
THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON

SO, LIKE, FRIDAY?
LIKE, NOON?

BAT CAKE
YEAH.
THAT'S FINE.

NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!
MISTER MIRACLE
ESCAPE ARTIST

NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!
MISTER MIRACLE
ESCAPE ARTIST

NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!
MISTER MIRACLE
ESCAPE ARTIST

NO TRAP CAN HOLD HIM!
MISTER MIRACLE
ESCAPE ARTIST

THAT WAS PAINFUL.
BUT I THINK HE'S DOWN.

MAYBE IT'S THE NAPS.
BUT WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

IF HE NAPS LESS, MAYBE HE'LL GO DOWN FASTER.
BUT THEN HE'S OVERTIRED, SO THEN IT'S SLOWER.
I DON'T KNOW.

YOU'RE %$#$^ EITHER WAY.

THE...
THE WAR...

NO.

WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

IT ***AT LEAST*** NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED.

BANG

WHAAAA!!

NWAAAA!

GWAAAA!

BWAAAA!

DHAAAAAA!

THE **REVIEW** YOU REQUESTED IS NOT YET COMPLETED, **HIGHFATHER.**

THIS IS MY **HESITATION.**

WE ARE **ATTEMPTING** TO BE AS **THOROUGH** AS POSSIBLE IN THE DETAILS.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

JUST HIT ME WITH WHATEVER YOU GOT.

SIR, THE **INTERPRETATION** OF THE **ABLAZED ORACLE** TAKES SOME TIME.

IT'S BASICALLY TRYING TO **READ** THE FACE OF GOD. IT'S **DELICATE.**

YOUR **FATHER** AND **BROTHER** UNDERSTOOD THIS.

HE'S NOT MY BROTHER.

YES, HIGHFATHER.

I JUST GOT TO THE STORE, IT'S CLOSING AND I GOT TO GET CUPS AND PLATES AND THINGS.

I CAN'T TALK IN THE STORE. AND I HAVE, LIKE, EIGHT MORE THINGS I HAVE TO DO.

PATHSEER, WHATEVER YOU GOT. PLEASE.

YES, HIGHFATHER.

ACCORDING TO THE ABLAZED ORACLE. IN REGARDS TO **THE WAR.**

IT APPEARS **ALL** WILL BE LOST AND **ALL** WILL SUFFER.

SADLY.

DO YOU HAVE A REWARDS MEMBERSHIP?

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

MEMBERSHIP REWARDS WILL GET YOU DISCOUNTS ON ***SELECTED ITEMS.***

PLUS YOU EARN POINTS TOWARD A ***FIVE DOLLAR*** GIFT CERTIFICATE.

WHICH CAN BE REDEEMED ON ***SELECTED ITEMS.***

THERE'S THIS WAR I'M LOSING. ***BILLIONS*** ARE GOING TO DIE.

I CAN ***STOP*** IT. EVEN, LIKE, ***WIN*** IT, REALLY.

BUT I HAVE TO SURRENDER MY ONLY SON.

OH.

OKAY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

YEAH, THAT'S...

TOUGH.

DAMN.

I GUESS THE WAY I LOOK AT IT, IT'S LIKE LIFE NEEDS ***MORE*** HAPPINESS.

THE WHOLE ***POINT*** OF IT ALL IS TO ***MAXIMIZE*** HAPPINESS FOR THE ***MOST*** PEOPLE.

IT'S ALMOST MATH OR AN ***EQUATION,*** Y'KNOW, THAT EXPLAINS, LIKE, WHAT LIFE ***SHOULD*** BE.

LIKE A ***LIFE EQUATION*** OR SOMETHING. WHAT GIVES MORE PEOPLE JOY?

NOT LIKE ***QUICK PLEASURE*** OR WHATEVER, BUT A ***DEEP,*** MEANINGFUL ***BLISS*** THING.

SO YOU JUST PUT YOUR DECISIONS ***INTO*** THE EQUATION OR WHATEVER, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

SO IF IT ***INCREASES*** HAPPINESS FOR THE MOST PEOPLE TO ***END*** THE WAR, GO FOR IT.

LIKE, IF THE HAPPINESS YOU LOSE FOR THE KID IS LESS THAN ALL THOSE PEOPLE ***NOT*** DYING.

HAPPY B-DAY!

THEN YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO. Y'KNOW.

IT SUCKS, I GUESS, BUT THAT'S LIFE, MAN.

DOING WHAT YOU DO...

...YOU CAN'T ***REALLY*** GET OUT OF THAT.

League

SO, *UH*, DID YOU HAVE A REWARDS MEMBERSHIP?

HAPPY B-DAY!

WHAT?

UH. NO.

I... I'LL JUST PAY NORMAL.

OKAY.

INSERT YOUR CARD AND PRESS THE GREEN BUTTON.

fffft

4 Party League

IT'LL BEEP WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

YOU ***SHOULD*** GET A REWARDS MEMBERSHIP.

IT'S LIKE FREE MONEY.

GREAT.

BUP BUP BUP

clkkk

sffft

GODDAMMIT.

ING!

YOU WERE RAISED ON APOKOLIPS.

YES?

AND I WAS RAISED THERE.

LIKE YOU.

AND WE'RE *HAPPY.*

WE WERE *PRISONERS.*

GRANNY *TORTURED* US.

WE WEREN'T HAPPY.

YEAH, *THEN.* I KNOW.

BUT *NOW.* WE SPENT ALL THAT TIME THERE.

AND *NOW,* IT CAME OUT OKAY.

ING!!

ARE WE?

WE'RE DOING WELL.

IS THAT WHY I HAD TO FIND YOU *BLEEDING OUT* BY THE TOILET?

BECAUSE OF HOW WELL WE'RE DOING?

EEEEEE!

THAT WAS... THAT'S NOT FAIR. I'M *TRYING!*

GREAT.

GOOD FOR YOU, SCOTT.

KEEP ON TRYING.

IT'S NOT *FAIR.*

ING!

ING!

I WAS IN A BAD PLACE.

OBERON HAD DIED, AND I...

I HAD DONE *SO* MUCH, EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED, AND IT DIDN'T...

I JUST *HAD TO* ESCAPE.

YEAH, AND WHAT DID I *HAVE* TO DO?

I HAD TO SCRAPE YOU OFF THE FLOOR. CRY WITH *STRANGERS* IN AN *E.R.*

I MADE ¢%$#@ *LIFE* WORK, WHILE YOU WERE TOO... *WHATEVER* YOU WERE TO DO *ANYTHING!*

WHEN DO *I* GET TO *ESCAPE,* SCOTT?!

IING!!

I DON'T WANT TO *TALK* ABOUT THIS.

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT *THE WAR.*

WE *HAVE TO* TALK ABOUT THE WAR.

AND WHAT WERE YOU ESCAPING FROM, EXACTLY?

ME?

NO...

IT WASN'T...

YOU'RE *DYING* TO GET AWAY FROM ME.

AND I... I *SHOULD* RUN FROM YOU. FOR *THAT.*

AND INSTEAD... I HAVE TO...ALL I CAN DO IS *TAKE CARE* OF YOU.

YOU SELFISH $%$@%$# *BASTARD.*

DID YOU EVER, FOR A *SECOND,* JUST THINK?

CAN YOU *THINK?*

ING! ING!

IT WASN'T...I'M NOT...

TRYING TO...*HURT* ANYTHING.

WELL, *GOOD* FOR YOU!

AREN'T YOU THE @$%#@ GODHERO OF NEW GENESIS!

ALL PRAISE SCOTT @%#$##$@ FREE!

SO YOU'RE ALL $%$@# UP.

AND I'M *STILL* WITH YOU.

SO THAT MAKES ME ALL #$@# UP.

AND *YOU* WANT TO GIVE *THAT* TO *OUR* KID!

SO WE CAN WIN SOME $%#@ WAR!

WE...

GOT *THROUGH* IT.

NO, WE DIDN'T.

WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU?

WE *ARE* IT.

AND *HE* ISN'T.

BARDA!

BARDA!

I'M A *GOD.*

I'M SUPPOSED TO *KNOW* THINGS.

I DON'T *KNOW* ANYTHING.

BOSS, I *EVER* TELL YOU *THE STORY* ABOUT THAT ONE *GOD?!*

THAT *STAR-EATING* GOD!

NO.

WELL! THERE WAS THIS *STAR-EATING* GOD, *STAREATER!*

AND HE HAD A *HELPER!* A *DOG* HELPER! TO HELP HIM *FIND STARS!*

THE GOLDEN RETRIEVER!

WHAT?

WHERE IS THIS FROM?

ME AND JACOB *CAME UP* WITH IT! *TOGETHER!*

WE HAVE *STORY TIME* EVERY DAY! MAKING UP *STORIES!*

SMART KID! *GOOD* IMAGINATION!

FUNKY.

HE CAN SAY, LIKE, SIX WORDS.

GENIUS JAKE DOESN'T HAVE TO TALK! *FUNKY* TALKS PLENTY!

HE PROVIDES ALL *THE IMAGINATIONS!*

I DO *THE WORDS!*

"SO, ONE DAY THE *GOLDEN RETRIEVER* FINDS A STAR FOR *STAREATER!*

woof

"BUT, *OH NO!* THE STAR IS *OUR* SUN!

woof

"AND *EARTH* IS IN *DANGEROUS PERIL!!*

"*STAREATER* DESCENDS UPON *OUR SUN!*

"*NOTHING* CAN STOP HIS *OUTRAGEOUS APPETITE!*

"*MEANWHILE,* ON EARTH, A YOUNG BOY, *JAKE JONES,* FINDS THE DOG!

"HE GIVES IT *PETS* AND *TREATS!*

Doggie!

Woof

"*MEANWHILE,* IN SPACE, THE SUN IS *DYING!*

Yum!

"*MEANWHILE,* BACK ON EARTH, *JAKE JONES* AND THE *GOLDEN RETRIEVER* ARE FRIENDS!

Yum

"YOU SEE, *GOLDEN RETRIEVER* IS FROM A PLANET WHERE *NO ONE* PLAYS WITH DOGS!

"AND HERE, HE *FINALLY* FINDS *COMFORT* AND *COMPANIONSHIP!*

Doggie!

Woof

"SO THEN THE *GOLDEN RETRIEVER* FINDS *BATMAN!* USING HIS *NOSE OF KNOWING!*

Hm

Woof

"AND HE TELLS *BATMAN* HOW TO *DEFEAT THE STAREATER!*

"BY USING THE *LAMENTED LASER!*

Oh No!

Bang!

Hm

"AND *BATMAN* USES THE LASER ON *STAREATER!*

"*SAVING* THE DAY!

Woof!

"*MEANWHILE!*

Yay!

"*GOLDEN RETRIEVER* FINDS A HOME!

"AND *LOVE!*"

WHAT?

SO YOU *SEE?!*

IT'S *ALL* THERE, NOW *YOU* KNOW!

I KNOW WHAT?

THAT I GOT TO BUY THE KID A *DOG?*

IT'S AGAINST THE CONDO POLICY.

PLUS I'M STILL MAYBE KIND OF TRYING TO CONVINCE BARDA TO SACRIFICE HIM TO WIN A COSMIC WAR.

SO, IF I DO *THAT...* AND GET THE DOG.

WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THE DOG? I DON'T WANT A DOG.

WHAT, *DOG?!*

NO!

NOW YOU KNOW *THE MEANING OF LIFE!*

STAREATER AND THE *GOLDEN RETRIEVER* AND *JAKE JONES.*

THIS IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?

EXCELSIOR!

I'M SORRY, FUNKY.

ALL THAT NONSENSE IS NOT ANYTHING.

THAT'S JUST YOUR STORY.

NO, BOSS, I *TOLD* YOU, IT'S NOT *MY* STORY.

IT'S *JACOB'S* STORY.

AND ISN'T *THAT* SOMETHING SPECIAL?

I SWEAR HE'S GONE DOWN, LIKE, ***FIVE*** TIMES.

I PUT HIM IN THE CRIB, I ***TIP TOE*** OUT...

AND THERE HIS HEAD JUST ***POPS*** UP.

ANYWAY...

DOWN FOR NOW.

I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU, TOO.

SO.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
THIS **WAR.** HE'S GOING TO WIN.
HE HAS ***TOO MANY*** ARMIES. WE HAVE TOO FEW.
WE'LL ***FIGHT*** AND IT'LL TAKE HIM ***TIME,*** BUT HE'LL EVENTUALLY KILL US ALL.
SO I'M GOING TO BRING JACOB TO HIM.
BUT WHEN THE MOMENT COMES.
WHEN HE'S RIGHT THERE WITH ME.
INSTEAD OF GIVING HIM THE KID...
...I'M JUST GOING TO KILL MY FATHER.
I KNOW IT'LL BE...I MEAN I ***CAN'T...*** I'LL PROBABLY LOSE AND... DIE.
BUT, ***MAYBE,*** Y'KNOW...GRANNY ***SAID*** THAT THERE'S THAT PROPHESY.
AND MAYBE I CAN ***FULFILL*** IT.
AND THEN WE CAN HAVE THE PARTY.
SOUNDS GOOD.
I'LL COME TOO.
OKAY.

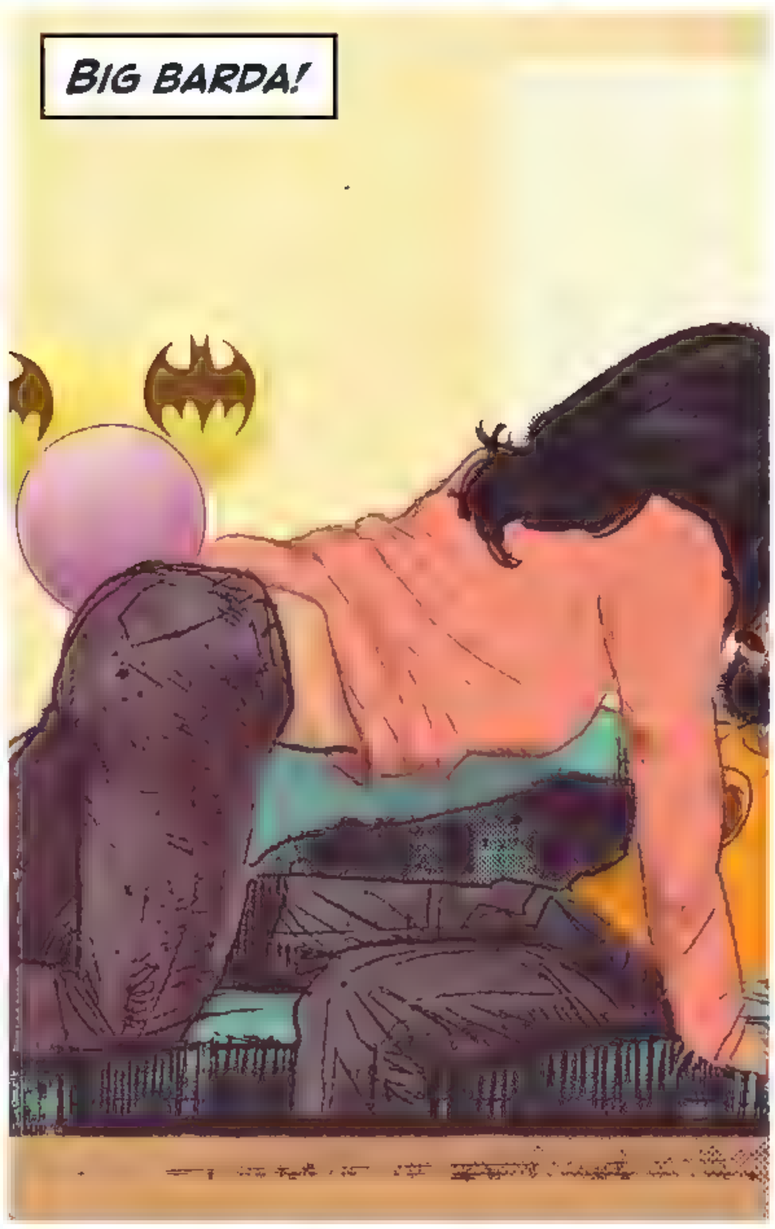
IT'S TRUE!

THEY'RE IN BUSINESS!!

BUT WHAT A BUSINESS IT TURNS OUT TO BE!

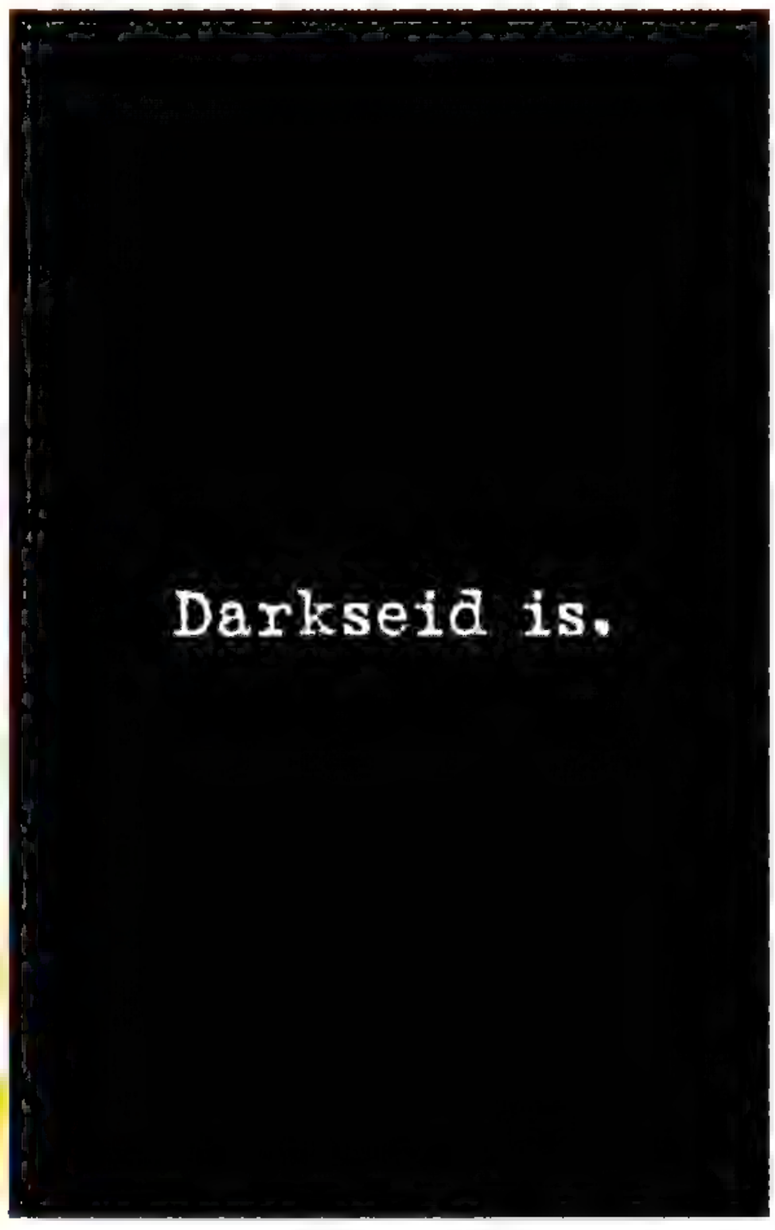
LIFE AND DEATH SET TO MUSIC!

MISTER MIRACLE!


BIG BARDA!

AND A FORCE SO MALIGNANT AND EVIL THAT IT THREATENS MORE THAN JUST:

THE GREATEST SHOW OFF EARTH!!!


Darkseid is.

Don't remember it.

Don't think about this, buddy.

AND THIS IS HOW IT BEGINS!

DON'T FORGET THE TRAY!

WITH FLAMING DEATH LEAPING TO CLAIM ITS VICTIM AND COMPLETE ITS HORRIBLE CYCLE!

DID YOU GET THE EXTRA DIAPERS?!

BUT, WHERE NO OTHER ESCAPE ARTIST DARES TO HOPE THIS ONE DARES ANYTHING!!

ALL RIGHT, I GOT THREE!

IS THAT ENOUGH?! WHAT ABOUT THE BOTTLES?!

ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HOVERS AT THE EDGE OF DOOM!

DO YOU HAVE THE BATMAN?

HE'LL FREAK OUT.

ESPECIALLY, WHEN DESTINY CHALLENGES HIM--LURES HIM TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN--AND BEYOND!

I FOUND IT!

BUT HE PROBABLY NEEDS A TEETHING THING, TOO!

THIS IS MORE THAN AN ACT!

I FORGOT! WE GOT TO GET ANOTHER CHANGE OF CLOTHES!

HE ALWAYS SPITS UP IN THE TUBE!

THIS IS THE LIFESTYLE OF...

ALL RIGHT. WE'RE GOOD.

TIME TO SAVE THE DAY.

BOOM.

#$^%$.

MISTER MIRACLE.

WHAT?

I FORGOT MY #$^%ING MOTHER BOX!

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST.

MAA!

BARDA!

LEILANI!

BIG BARDA, ALWAYS *SO* BIG.

AND SWEET LEILANI.

ALWAYS *SO* SWEET.

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE?

YOU HELPING WITH THE EXCHANGE?

I'M SUPPOSED TO CHECK YOU FOR WEAPONS.

YOU HAVE ANY WEAPONS?

I GOT A STROLLER, AND...*SO MANY* DIAPERS.

DOES THAT COUNT?

I GOT A VEGGIE TRAY!

IT'S STUPID. *EVERYTHING'S* STUPID SINCE GRANNY DIED AND BERNADETH BECAME ALL WHATEVER.

THEY HAVE ME DOING THE *STUPID* THINGS.

HEY.

ONE THING I'VE LEARNED IN ALL MY *YEARS* AS A GOD ON EARTH.

LIKE THERE'S A WEAPON THAT WOULD HURT *HIM.*

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A GOOD VEGGIE TRAY.

GLLLFT

crnch

crrrnch
crrrnch
crrrnch

crnch

crnch

crrrnch
crrrnch
crrrnch

YOU HAVE COME TO KILL OUR *LORDGOD.*

NO. *UNCLE DESAAD.*

WE HAVE NOT. LIKE I *SAID.*

WE'RE HERE TO END A WAR, ACCEPT HIS OFFER, THE KID FOR PEACE.

YOU ARE LYING.

FINE, I'M LYING.

I'M GOING TO KILL AN ***INFINITE GOD*** WITH MY INCREDIBLE ***ESCAPE*** POWERS.

I'M GOING TO ***ESCAPE*** HIM TO DEATH.

SARCASM.

YOU ***THINK?***

BAA!

BRING HIM THE CHILD.

YEAH.

SHOULD I...

NO. I'LL... IT'S FINE.

MAAMAA!

IT'S OKAY, JAKIE.

MAAAA!

MOMMY'S GOT YOU.

REMEMBER WHAT MOMMY SAID...

THIS IS GRANDPA.

BAAA!

AND REMEMBER, TOO...

ALWAYS...

MOMMY LOVES YOU.

NANANA!

"NAANAA" IS NOSE. THAT'S WHAT HE SAYS.

SOME KIDS DON'T EVEN TALK.

THAT'S PRETTY... AHEAD. HE'S ***JUST*** TURNING ONE.

WHAT?

WHEN DID HE ***EVER*** SAY THAT FOR NOSE?

THAT'S JUST NOISE.

HE SAYS IT FOR NOSE.

NO, HE DOESN'T. ***MAYBE*** HE SAYS IT FOR THE CAT.

NO, THE CAT IS "KNAAKNAA."

NANANA!

YOU HAVE DELIVERED.

AND SO WE WILL ALSO ***HONOR*** THE PACT.

BLAAA!

IN THE NEXT ***MINUTES,*** ALL TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN.

THE CAPTURED SHALL BE RETURNED.

YOUR INSPECTORS WILL BE WELCOMED.

AND THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION?

YES.

THE... ***EQUATION.***

OBVIOUSLY, YOU ***MUST*** RECOGNIZE...

THE EQUATION IS... ***KNOWLEDGE.***

SCQKK

KKQQQ

KKKK

IT IS ***LEARNING*** THE WAY TO TAKE A PERSON'S WILL.

TO REMOVE THAT WHICH ALLOWS ANY RESISTANCE.

IT IS AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO EXCISE...

...HOPE.

THE ***LORDGOD*** KNOWS HOW TO DO THIS.

AND AS KNOWLEDGE CANNOT BE...ERASED.

HE ***FOREVER*** SHALL.

HOWEVER, WITHOUT HIS EYE, THE ***LORDGOD*** CANNOT WIELD THE OMEGA BEAMS.

AND WITHOUT ***THE BEAMS,*** THE EQUATION IS QUITE USELESS.

HE CANNOT EXECUTE THE SCHEMATIC.

SO YOU SEE, BY ***NECESSITY...***

THE ***LORDGOD*** RETAINS THE AMMUNITION.

BUT YOU...

YOU HAVE THE GUN.

HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BE...

SATISFACTORY.

SATISFACTORY?

NO.

SQSHHH

BUT I GUESS IT'LL HAVE TO DO.

THAT'S OUR SIDE. THAT'S YOUR SIDE.

I GOT NOTHING ELSE TO SAY.

EXCEPT... BYE. TO MY BOY.

BRIEFLY.

DAAA!

DAAADAA!

JAKIE...

YOU WON'T REMEMBER WHAT I'M SAYING.

I...DON'T ***REMEMBER*** WHAT MY DAD SAID.

IF I DID, I THINK I'D HATE ***WHATEVER*** WORDS HE USED.

BUT DEEP IN ME, Y'KNOW.

WHEN I WAS IN PLACES I COULDN'T GET OUT OF.

SOMETIMES... I THOUGHT... ***MAYBE*** I THOUGHT I FELT IT.

SOMEONE... OUT THERE.

BEYOND... AT THE END OF ALL OF IT...

MAYBE SOMEONE LOVED ME. OR MAYBE LOVES ME.

SO DON'T THINK ABOUT THIS, BUDDY.

DON'T REMEMBER IT.

JUST KIND OF KNOW...

THAT YOUR FATHER.

THAT I...

I LOVE YOU, JACOB FREE.

DAAA.

I LOVE YOU ***SO MUCH.***

OKAY, HONEY.

I GOT HIM.

FANTASTIC.

EXCUSE ME?

JMP

CLK

CLK

CLK

CLK

VMMM

NO!

WHAT ARE YOU... DOING...

ARE...

YOU $%~@!

BOOM.

BOOM!

HEY, DARKSEID!

YOU KNOW WHAT SCOTT AND I DO?!

LIKE, EVERY DAY OF OUR DAMN LIVES?!

ZAP

WE GO ALL THE $%#@ OVER!

ZAP

AND WE LOOK FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS $%^# IN THE UNIVERSE!

JUST TO SEE HOW WE CAN AMAZE AN AUDIENCE BY GETTING AROUND IT!

THIS GUN IS POWERED BY ENERGY TAKEN FROM THE MIRACLE MACHINE!

WE EXTRACTED IT DURING A CRISIS AWHILE BACK! THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN!

ZAP

BUT, Y'KNOW, WE NEVER FIGURED OUT HOW TO USE IT.

IT WAS THE ONE THING THAT WAS TOO MUCH, TOO POWERFUL.

WHATEVER WE PUT IN FRONT OF IT, EVERY SHIELD AND TOOL.

ALL THE TRICKS OF OUR TRADE. TEST AFTER TEST AFTER TEST.

ZAP

NOTHING.

ZAP

NOTHING STOPS IT.

NOTHING SLOWS IT.

NOTHING SURVIVES IT.

ZAP

IN OTHER WORDS.

ZAP

YOU MOTHER %$#@$%...

ZAP

THERE IS NO ESCAPE.

ZAP

DIE.

DIE!

DIE?

YOU...

NO...

YOU...

BASTARD.

YES.

I AM.

Darkseid is.

BARDA!

YOU HAVE *VIOLATED* YOUR AGREEMENT.

BECAUSE OF YOUR VIOLATION...

OUR *LORDGOD* HAS DECIDED TO REDEPLOY HIS TROOPS.

AND TO *EXECUTE* ALL PRISONERS.

HE REGRETS THE LOSS OF HIS EYE.

BUT HE BELIEVES THERE IS AT LEAST...

ONE WAY TO REPLACE IT.

IF HE TAKES YOURS.

HIGHFATHER.

%$@# YOU.

YOU ARE A DISAPPOINTMENT, SCOTT FREE.

YOU WERE GIVEN THE GREATEST GIFT ONE CAN RECEIVE.

YOU WERE GIVEN *PAIN.*

POW

PAIN MAKES YOU STEADY, STRONG.

ABLE TO CONQUER, RULE.

BUT WHAT DID YOU DO WITH ALL YOUR PAIN?

PERFORMED.

MARRIED.

POW

BRED.

SWSHHHH

WHAT A WASTE.

WHAT A PITY.

WAAAAAA!

KORSHH

NNN...

WAAAAAA!

NO, NO...

WAAAAAA!

NNGG.

WAAAAAA!

JAKIE... IT'S...

WAAAAAA!

OKAY...

WAAAAAA!

O...KAY...

WAAAAAA!

WAAAAAA!

WAAAAAA!

WAAAAAA!

SCOTT...

I...

WAAAAAA!

SCOTT FREE.

WAAAAAA!

I CAN'T...

BARDA... I CAN'T...

WAAAAAA!

STAND.

WAAAAAA!

WAAAAAA!

WAAAAAA!

WAAAAAA!

STANDING.

WAAAAAA!

GOOD.

WAAAAAA!

%¢@# YOU!!

%¢@# YOU!

%¢@# YOU!

%¢@# YOU!

%¢@# YOU!!!

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS, YOU FAT #$%@?!

GOT THE IDEA WHEN MY KID WAS BORN!

THAT'S A ***FAHREN-KNIFE,*** BUT THIS ONE'S NOT MADE OF ***YOUR*** FLESH!

NO, NO, ***THAT*** BLADE IN YOUR BRAIN IS MADE OF ***ORION.***

REMEMBER ***ORION,*** DAD? YOUR OTHER BOY? WHO YOU ***KILLED.*** LEAVING ***ME*** THE BODY.

REMEMBER ***ORION...***

THE GUY THE ***PROPHECY*** SAYS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ***KILL YOU!***

BUT, ***SCOTT,*** YOU'RE A STUPID ESCAPE ARTIST--

--HOW COULD YOU MAKE A FAHREN-KNIFE OUT OF ORION?

GOOD...QUESTION, ***LORD-DEAD-GOD.***

VAAATAA!

LUCKY FOR ME, I KNEW ***SOMEONE...***

...WHO WAS RAISED MAKING ***BONEWINE*** OUT OF DEAD GODS.

AS ***GIFTS*** FOR DEAR ***DARKSEID.***

DAAA!

LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAID, DAD...

ALWAYS MARRY UP.

MAA! DAAA!

WHAT WAS WITH ALL THE "BLEEP YOU" IN FRONT OF JAKE?
I KNOW.
WHAT HAPPENED TO "ESCAPE THIS"?
IT WAS AN IN THE MOMENT THING.
I THOUGHT WE AGREED ON "ESCAPE THIS."
I'M SORRY. NEXT TIME...
NEXT TIME? YOU HAD TO SWEAR IN FRONT OF JACOB.
OH. AND YOU DIDN'T? I ***HEARD*** YOU.
THAT'S DIFFERENT.
HOW IS THAT DIFFERENT?
HIS FIRST WORD IS GOING TO BE "%$@#."
HE ALREADY HAS FIRST WORDS!
I HOPE YOU'RE %$@#ING HAPPY.
WELL, I ***AM*** %$@#ING HAPPY!
MISTER MIRACLE. CONGRATULATIONS.
YOU HAVE... ***PREVAILED.***
YOU HAVE SLAIN THE DEVIL.
YOU HAVE SEEN FEAR, EMBRACED FEAR, MASTERED FEAR.
YOU HAVE SEEN LOVE, EMBRACED LOVE, BEEN MASTERED BY LOVE.
METRON?
YOU #%#@ING...
WHAT?
NANANA
YOU CHALLENGED THE UNCHALLENGED.
YOU DARED THE TRAP OF DEATH.
AND YOU ESCAPED.
AND NOW IT IS TIME, MY SON.
TIME TO LOOK INTO THE FACE OF GOD.
AND HEAR YOUR CHEERS, AND TAKE YOUR BOW.
WHERE YOU ARE IS NOT WHERE YOU SHOULD BE, SCOTT FREE.

"THERE IS ANOTHER WORLD."

IF A MASTERMIND COULDN'T TRAP MISTER MIRACLE...

...YOU'D THINK IT'S WELL NIGH IMPOSSIBLE!!

WELL, YOU'RE WRONG!

FUUUUG!

IT'S EASY!

SEE HOW IT'S DONE IN THE NEXT COMPLETE ISSUE!

crunch

And then...

...I wasn't scared.

SUCH IS THE CURSE OF FAME!

EVEN IF IT IS IN ITS EARLY STAGES!

NEVER DREAMING OF INVOLVEMENT WITH THE STRANGE PERSONALITIES THAT LURK IN THE UNSEEN AUDIENCE NOW ATTRACTED BY HIS EXPLOITS...

DOOM PATROL

OUR HERO BASKS IN THE GROWING SUNSHINE OF EXPOSURE TO THE PUBLIC!

BUT--

--THIS IS TO CHANGE QUICKLY!

A TRAP IS ABOUT TO BE SPRUNG ON SCOTT FREE!

A TRAP WHICH IS DIABOLICAL IN ITS SIMPLICITY!

A TRAP MEANT FOR THE MASKED CHALLENGER OF DEATH!

A TRAP SCOTT MUST FALL VICTIM TO--

FOR SCOTT FREE IS.

MISTER MIRACLE

SUPER ESCAPE ARTIST!

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

SHHHHHHHSHHHHHH

GOOD MORNING!

THIS IS WHERE YOU PUT IT?
I LIKE IT THERE.
IT LOOKS GOOD.
IT MATCHES THINGS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WENT THROUGH TO GET THAT MIRROR?
DEATH, PAIN, TORTURE.
ALL FOR YOU.
IT WASN'T ALL FOR ME.
AND LIKE NOTHING, YOU JUST HANG IT HERE.
IN A BATHROOM. IN A CONDO.
IN LOS ANGELES.
WELL, IT HAD TO GO SOMEWHERE.
FINE, IT'S FINE.
I CAN MOVE IT.
IF IT MEANS THAT MUCH TO YOU.
THE ONLY THING THAT MEANS ANYTHING TO ME IS YOU.
YOU AND YOUR HAPPINESS.
MY LITTLE BOY.
I'LL MOVE THE DAMN MIRROR.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO, IT'S FINE.
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT, THAT'S ALL.
I DO LIKE IT.
DO YOU, REALLY?
YES. HONESTLY, I SWEAR.
I LIKE SEEING...KNOWING WHAT'S...
LIKE, WHAT'S UNDERNEATH.
OH.
WELL, THAT'S NICE.
BUT THEN YOU JUST... PUT IT IN THE BATHROOM...
I SAID I WAS GOING TO MOVE IT!

LOOK AT YOU!

WHAT?

ALL GROWN UP.

AND SO HANDSOME.

HMM...

HOW COULD YOU DO IT? TO ME.

YOU SEE, MY BOY, *THIS.*

THIS IS REAL.

ALL THE REST.

THE DEATHS, THE WAR, THE WIFE, THE CHILD. THIS PRETEND LIFE YOU...

IT'S IN YOUR HEAD. YOU'RE *INSANE.* YOU'RE MAKING IT UP.

TO ESCAPE FROM ME.

HOW COULD YOU LEAVE YOUR GRANNY?

YOU LITTLE *FOOL.* YOU HAD A CHANCE. METRON WAS A SIGNAL.

YOU SHOULD'VE OPENED YOUR EYES.

YOU *SHOULD'VE* COME BACK.

WHERE IS $%&@ING FUNKY!

YOU WANT ME TO CALL HIM?

I CAN CALL HIM.

I'LL CALL HIM.

WE HAVE TO GO ALL THE WAY TO ***APOKOLIPS.*** AND BACK.

AND IF WE MISS THE APPOINTMENT THIS AFTERNOON...

AGAIN...

I'M ***CALLING*** HIM.

I TOLD HIM ***37*** TIMES...

CLICK

WAIT.

FABULOUS FREE FAMILY!

FUNKY IS ***HERE!***

I THINK HE MIGHT BE HERE.

SEE. IN THE END. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

DID YOU FEED THE CATS?

YOU SHAVED.

I DID.

IT LOOKS NICE.

BOOM

THANK YOU.

BOOM

UH...

SHOULD WE...

SHUT THE $%$@ UP, LIGHTRAY.

YEAH, OKAY.

I AM *MORE* THAN HONORED!

I AM *DELIGHTED!*

GREAT.

TO BEGIN THIS *SEASON OF WAR,* THE *FIRST* UNDER OUR NEWEST DEAR LEADER, *KING KALIBAK...*

...WITH A *BATTLE* BETWEEN MYSELF, AND YOU, MY *DEAR* BIG BARDA.

IT IS... MIRACULOUS.

KANTO, I'M SORRY, WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT. ON EARTH.

IT WOULD HELP IF WE COULD...

PLEASE... MOVE IT ALONG.

YES, WELL.

FOR YOU, *DARLING,* ANYTHING.

PREPARE YOURSELF. FOR *GOD-DEATH.*

ALL RIGHT. I'M PREPARED.

OR WHATEVER.

CAN WE JUST GO?

HYAA!

KYOO!

POW

WHAT CAN I SAY, MAN?

YOU'RE IN HELL.

YOU KILLED YOURSELF, YOU DIED, YOU WENT TO HELL, YOU HAD TO ESCAPE.

AND YOU ACTUALLY FOUND A WAY TO ESCAPE.

AND YOU ***DECIDED*** NOT TO ESCAPE.

SO NOW YOU'RE JUST IN HELL.

LIKE...

FOREVER.

DUDE, YOU SHOULD'VE GOTTEN OUT.

IT'S ***MISERABLE*** HERE. IT'S ALL DEATH AND FIRE.

LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO ***ME!***

I'M TELLING YOU, THERE ISN'T A SPECK OF HOPE IN IT.

I KNOW, I GET YOU, YOU THINK YOU CAN FIGHT IT.

YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST ***PUNCH*** AND ***PUNCH*** AND ***PUNCH,*** AND IT'LL ALL BE OKAY.

BUT, YOU JUST DON'T REALLY GET IT.

THIS DEVIL CAME AFTER THAT LAST ONE.

AND AFTER THIS DEVIL COMES ANOTHER ONE.

HELL DOESN'T ***GET*** BETTER.

IT'S ***NEVER*** OKAY.

THAT'S WHY IT'S HELL.

THIS DEVIL HAS TO FALL. EVENTUALLY.

ALL RIGHT.
HERE WE GO.
IS EVERYTHING...
IT'S FINE. SO FINE.
I'M SURE.
AND IF IT'S NOT...IT'S FINE.
WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR A HEARTBEAT.
SOMETIMES THIS CAN TAKE A SECOND.
ONE SECOND...
IT'S GOOD.
SHE SAID ONE SECOND.
PLEASE.
GOD...
beepbeep
THERE WE GO.

...BEING VERY COOPERATIVE.

WE'VE GOT A GOOD VIEW. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE SEX?

UH...

OR... I...

WHAT?

YES.

PLEASE.

IT'S A GIRL.

CONGRATULATIONS.

WHAT, REALLY?

I MEAN.

THAT'S AWESOME.

I MEAN, AWESOME.

IS SHE--

IS EVERYTHING...

WELL, WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME MEASUREMENTS TODAY.

BUT SHE LOOKS GOOD. IF ANYTHING...MAYBE A LITTLE...

BIG.

DARKSEID'S GONE. I AM GONE. YOU ARE HIGHFATHER.

YOU HAVE THE FAMILY OF YOUR DREAMS.

YOU ARE...IN HEAVEN.

YOU KILLED YOURSELF. WENT TO PARADISE.

TRIED TO ESCAPE. FOUND A WAY.

DECIDED TO STAY.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY GOOD GIRL NAMES.

WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T EVEN DO NAMES.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING. I DON'T KNOW. NEVER MIND.

TRAPPED IN YOUR OWN PERFECT WORLD.

I CANNOT SAY THAT I BLAME YOU, BROTHER.

I'M NOT YOUR BROTHER.

BUT I CAN SAY...

I'M ***DISAPPOINTED*** IN YOU.

WHAT ABOUT ROSALIND? ROSALIND THE GOLD.

THAT WAS MY GRANDMOTHER. SHE WAS VERY COOL.

I THOUGHT LIFE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE CHALLENGES.

THE STRUGGLE.

THE MOMENT ***BEFORE*** THE BOW.

IF EVERYTHING IS EASY AND NICE.

LIKE HOW ***NOW*** EVERYTHING IS ***EASY*** AND ***NICE.***

YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD.

WE HAVE TO FACE IT.
THIS IS HAPPENING.
THIS IS REAL.
WE'RE *GOING* TO NEED TO MOVE.
THE CONDO CAN'T...WE CAN'T... AGAIN...
NO MATTER WHAT ROOMS WE MOVE WE CAN'T...WE STILL NEED TO MOVE.
I LOVE THE CONDO.
WE CAN GO ANYWHERE.
WE'RE DOING LESS PERFORMING, MORE GODDING.
WE DON'T HAVE TO BE STUCK IN THIS MESS ALL THE TIME. IN L.A. ANYMORE.
I LOVE L.A.
THAT'S... C'MON, THAT'S THE MYTH.
THE METAPHOR GONE SENSELESS.
NO ONE LOVES L.A.
PEOPLE JUST COME HERE BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY *HAVE* TO.
THEN THEY DON'T LEAVE BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY *CAN'T.*
DARLING, PLEASE.
AFTER EVERYTHING.
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED BY NOW?
THAT'S ALL LOVE IS.

HOME.

WITH GREAT *POWER* COMES GREAT *POSSIBILITY!*

JAKE

EXA!

HELLO, BUB.

HEY, FUNK. HOW'D IT GO?

ME AND *JOLLY JAKE?!*

WE HAVE *NOTHING* TO REPROACH *OURSELVES* ABOUT!

I *HAVE* TO CALL THE FURIES. I PROMISED TO GIVE THEM THE NEWS.

IF I WAIT, YOU KNOW, THEY GET MAD AND START...*KILLING* THINGS.

CAN YOU...HE JUST NEEDS HIS NAP.

SURE.

I'VE GOT HIM.

DA! DA!

HUSH LITTLE BABY, DON'T SAY A WORD.

DASA!

DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A MOCKING-BIRD.

AND IF THAT MOCKING-BIRD WON'T SING...

DASA AHS...

DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A DIAMOND RING.

DA...

OH, NO! NOT HIM...

IF THAT DIAMOND RING TURNS BRASS...

DADDY'S GOING TO BUY YOU A LOOKING GLASS.

AND IF THAT LOOKING GLASS GETS BROKE...

AND THE SON ASKED, "WHAT IS THE FOURTH WORLD?"

AND THE FATHER SAID, "THE FIRST WORLD IS THE OLD WORLD. THE WORLD OF MY PARENTS. FROM WHICH THEY FLED.

"THE SECOND WORLD IS THE NEW WORLD WHICH THEY SOUGHT, WHICH THEY FOUND, WHERE I CAME TO BE.

"THE THIRD WORLD IS OUR WORLD AS IT IS NOW, IN THE MAKING, THE FUTURE BEING BORN.

"AND THE FOURTH WORLD, MY CHILD, THAT IS **MY** WORLD. THE WORLD I SEE WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES..."

AND TRY TO ESCAPE.

SCOTT!

WE'RE OUT OF #%@ING HOT DOGS.

YEAH... WHAT?

DINNER! WE NEED HOT DOGS!

OH... HE CAN...EAT SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES...HOT DOGS.

CAN HE?

NO VEGGIE TRAY, MISTER MIRACLE?

WE'RE GOOD.

WIENERS

YOU HAVE HAD YOUR REVELATION.

BAR

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW.

WHO YOU ARE.

WHO I AM.

AS I ONCE DID, YOU FACED THE ***ANTI-LIFE EQUATION.***

IT ***AFFECTED*** YOU, ***WARPED*** YOUR WORLD.

YOU FOUGHT AGAINST IT. ***ALMOST*** ESCAPED IT.

BUT NOT QUITE.

YOU WERE... NOT AS STRONG AS I. SADLY.

YOU COULD NOT MAKE THE CHOICE I ***HAD TO*** MAKE.

BUT, ***MY BOY,*** LET THERE BE NO SHAME IN THAT ***FAILURE.***

YOU TRIED. ***I*** KNOW YOU TRIED.

AND I AM ***FOREVER*** PROUD OF YOU.

POW

#$%@ YOU.

SCOTT.

#$%@. YOU.

SCOTT... YOU... ***CAN'T.***

CAN YOU NOT COMPREHEND WHO I AM?! WHAT I DID FOR YOU?!

YOU HEAR ME, BOY?

I AM YOUR ***FATHER!***

I AM YOUR ***GOD!***

PKKPKK

whrrrrrr

SKKKKKK

DUG!

MOMMY AND DADDY HAVE SUPER BIG NEWS, JAKEY.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE...ARE YOU READY?

A LITTLE SISTER!

DUG!

HE'S TAKING IT WELL.

HE'S SO YOUNG.

HE WON'T REMEMBER THE WORLD WITHOUT HER.

WHATEVER CAME BEFORE.

THIS'LL JUST BE HIS WORLD.

THOSE'LL KILL YOU.

EH.

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?

YOU COULD QUIT, EXERCISE, LIVE LONGER.

THOSE ARE THINGS YOU COULD *DO*.

WHAT DO I NEED MORE OF LIFE FOR?

I HAD A *GOOD* LIFE.

I SAVED THE WORLD, MADE PEOPLE CLAP, SAW YOU MARRIED TO THE BEST GIRL.

I'M *FANTASTIC!*

BUT SCOTT.

PAL.

HOW ARE *YOU?*

I...

I'M SORRY.

I THINK I DID EVERYTHING ***WRONG.***

I ***SHOULD'VE*** ESCAPED.

I ***SHOULDN'T*** HAVE ESCAPED.

I JUST...

OBERON, ***EVERYTHING*** IS WRONG.

IT'S OKAY, KIDDO.

C'MON.

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

SCOTT, ***LISTEN,*** THAT WORLD, THAT ***OTHER*** WORLD METRON SHOWED YOU.

ALL THOSE ***CRISES*** AND ***CONTINUITIES*** THAT NEVER ***REALLY*** MAKE SENSE.

THAT WORLD FULL OF ***SUPERHEROES*** WHO ***ALWAYS*** END UP HUNKY-DORY?

YOU THINK THAT'S ***MORE REAL*** THAN THAT WIFE OF YOURS?

THAT ***KID?***

SORRY, I MEAN, ***KIDS.***

C'MON.

SELL ME ANOTHER ONE.

I...

YOU HEARD? ABOUT THE BABY.

THE GIRL. THE GIRL BABY. THE BABY GIRL.

I HEARD.

PUT A ***BIG*** SMILE ON THIS CRAGGY OLD FACE.

KID, THIS, ALL THIS, IT'LL ***BREAK*** YOUR HEART. CAN'T ESCAPE THAT.

BUT IF YOU'RE GOOD, IF YOU STAY GOOD, YOU'LL KNOW...

THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO'LL HELP YOU PUT IT BACK TOGETHER.

SOMETHING WEIRD HAPPENED TODAY.

RIGHT WHEN WE CAME HOME.

I PICKED UP JAKE AND I ***LOOKED*** IN HIS FACE.

AND I JUST GOT THIS...I SAW THIS ***THING...***

IT WAS LIKE JAKE WASN'T LOOKING ***JUST*** AT ME.

HE WAS LOOKING PAST ME, AT MY DAD LOOKING AT ME AND DAD'S DAD LOOKING... AND HIS DAD...

AND ALL THE WAY BACK. TO THE BEGINNING.

AND I'M NOT LOOKING ***JUST*** AT JAKE EITHER.

I'M SEEING ***HIS*** KID LOOKING AT HIM, AND THAT KID'S KID LOOKING AND THAT...AND THAT KID'S...

ALL THE WAY FORWARD, TO THE END.

AND IT JUST FELT LIKE WE WERE ***NOTHING.***

OUR LOOK WAS JUST ONE LOOK AMONG ***A MILLION*** LOOKS, A MILLION YEARS.

MORE THAN A MILLION. ENDLESS...BUT WITH AN ENDING.

AND I WAS SCARED, Y'KNOW.

TO BE THAT SMALL. DEEP DOWN, SCARED.

I ALMOST WANTED TO RUN AWAY. IT WAS A TRAP.

BUT THEN, I THOUGHT. ALL THOSE OTHER PEOPLE.

THEY'RE NOT REAL ANYMORE. OR YET.

THEY WENT OR THEY'RE COMING, BUT THEY'RE NOT HERE NOW.

AND I'M HERE, Y'KNOW.

AND ***YOU'RE*** HERE.

JAKE'S HERE. EVEN THIS NEW LITTLE GIRL. SHE'S HERE.

AND THEN I WASN'T SCARED. AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN.

AND I JUST ***ENJOYED*** IT. SEEING ALL OF IT. ALL OF US. GOING BACK AND FORWARD.

LIKE LOOKING INTO THE FACE OF GOD.

YOU WANT TO WATCH SOMETHING?

WHERE'S THE REMOTE?

SURE.

AH, $%$#.

WHAT?

I FORGOT.

WHAT?

FUNKY SAID YESTERDAY JAKE PUT IT IN THE DISHWASHER, AND FUNKY DIDN'T NOTICE.

SO I GUESS IT GOT... WASHED.

I MEANT TO RUN TO THE STORE TODAY. BUT WITH EVERYTHING... SORRY.

DARKSEID IS.

YEAH, I KNOW.

BUT...

WE ARE TOO.

SCOTT FREE, MISTER MIRACLE, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

I CAN ALWAYS ESCAPE.

CAN YOU?

THE END.

THE "MISTER MIRACLE" SERIES WILL NOT BE CONTINUED--

ITS NEW AND THRILLING SUCCESSOR WILL SOON BE ON SALE!

LOOK FOR IT!

Thank you—
Tom, Mitch, Clayton, Nick, Jamie and Brittany.

VARIANT COVER GALLERY

BY MITCH GERADS

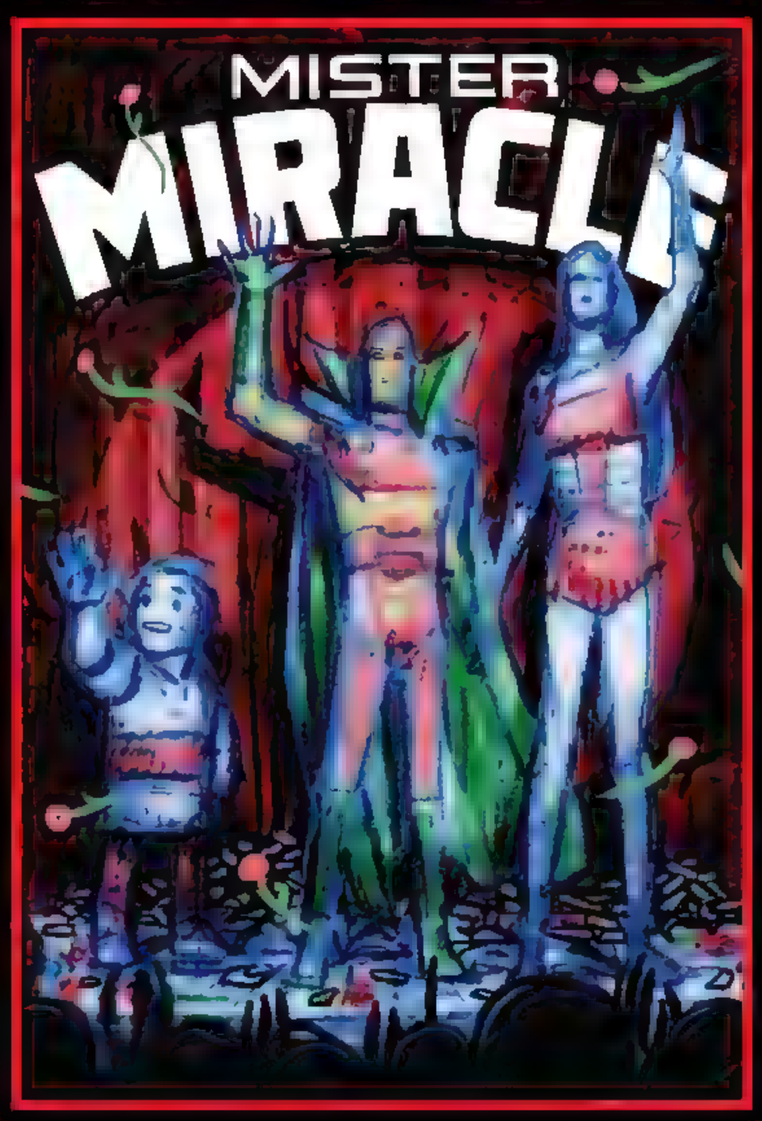
MITCH
FREE

MEKH!
2017

Mitch Geralds

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

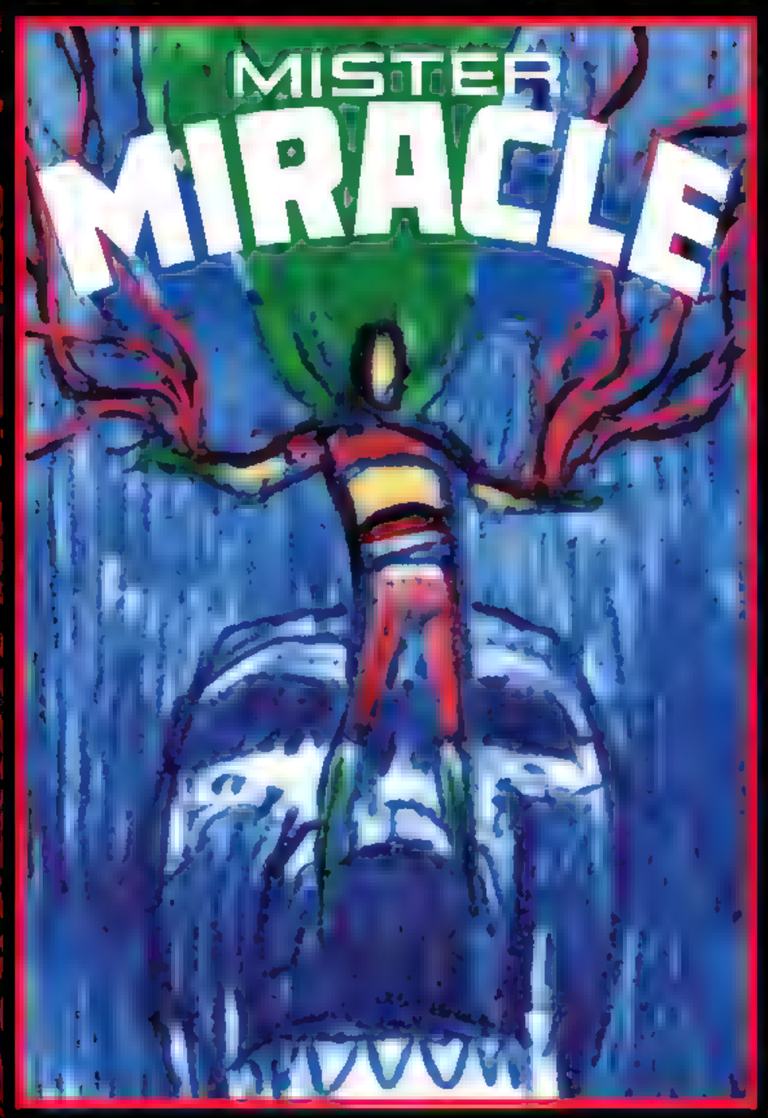
Darkseid is.



MIRACLE WORKERS

Cover sketches by NICK DERINGTON and MITCH GERADS

MISTER
MIRACLE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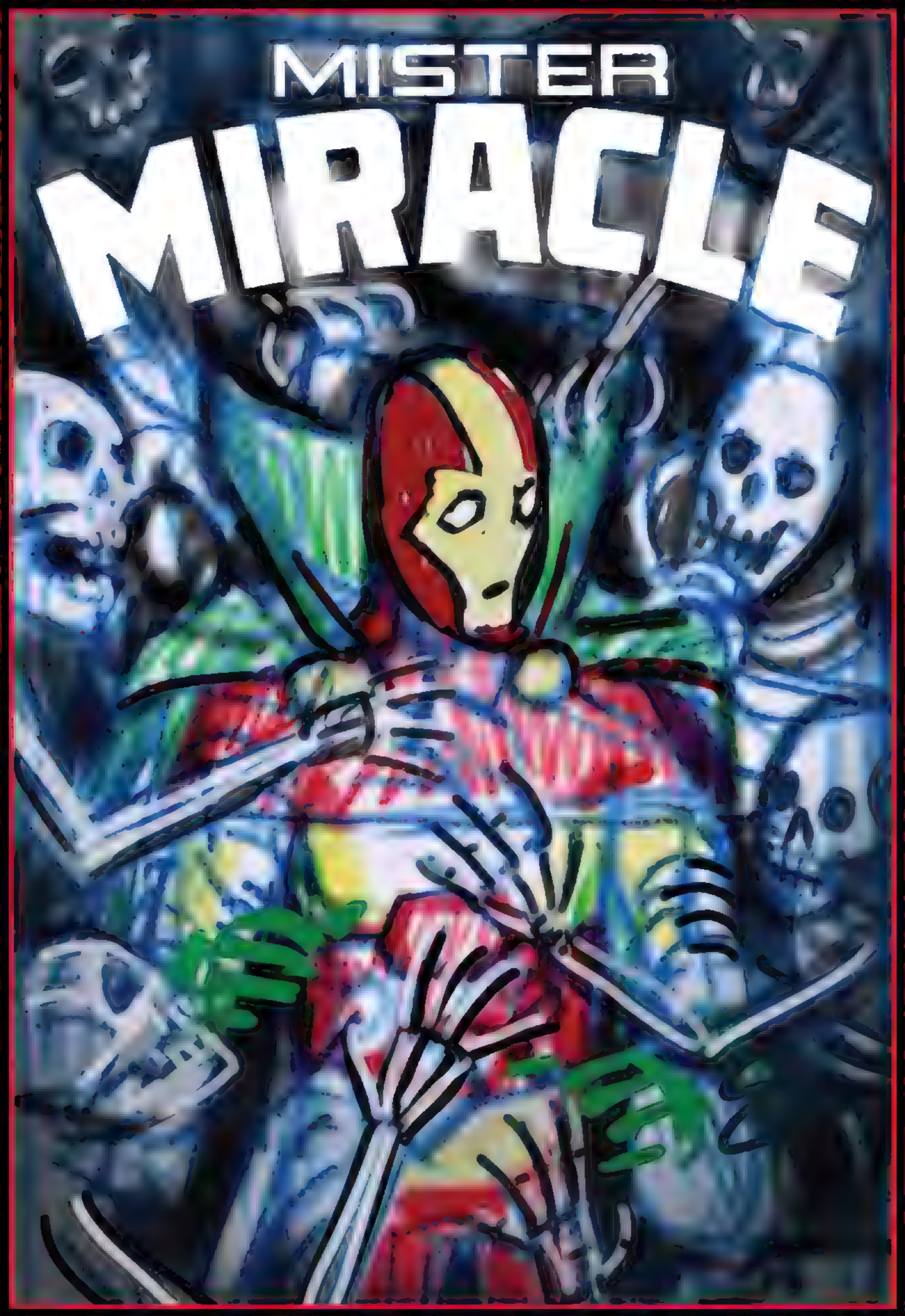
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Darkseid is.

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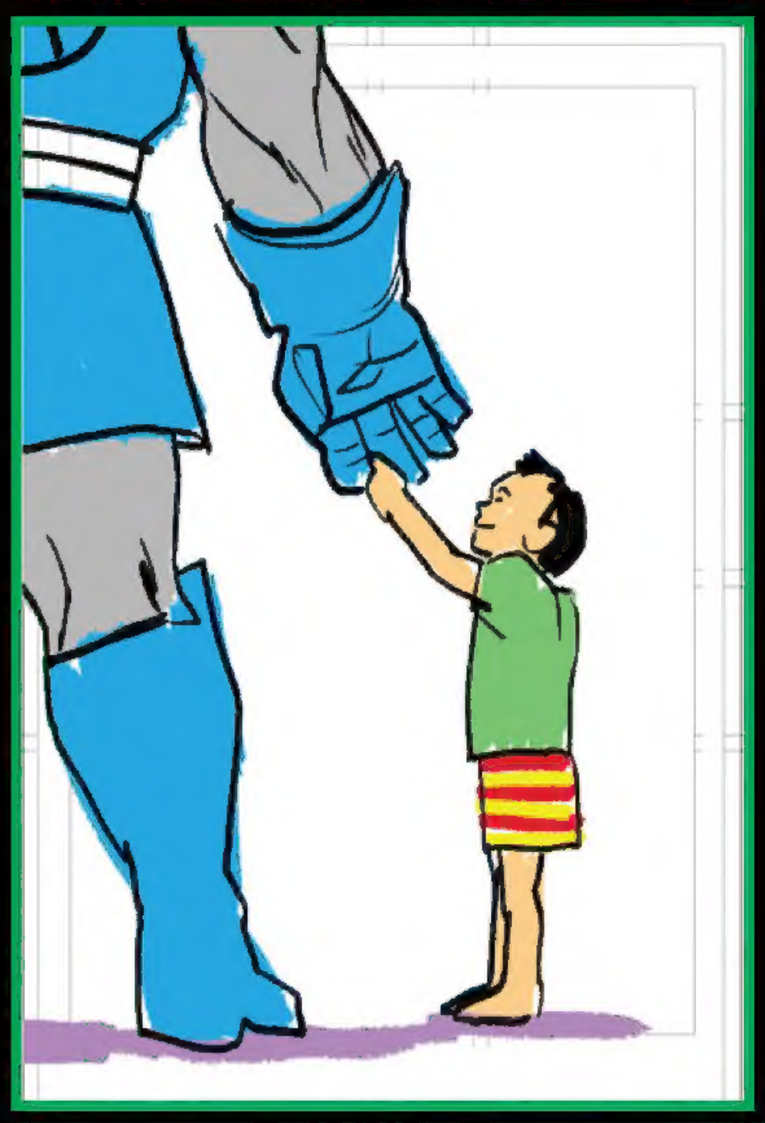

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TOM KING is a *New York Times* best-selling and Eisner, Harvey and Ringo award-winning writer. He is best known for his acclaimed work on BATMAN, *The Vision*, THE OMEGA MEN, MISTER MIRACLE and THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON. Prior to becoming a writer, King worked at the CIA as an operations officer in the counterterrorism center, where he served overseas in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of war. He currently lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and three children.

MITCH GERADS is an Eisner and Ringo award-winning illustrator who has made a career out of bringing humanity and realism to the superhuman and unreal. He is best known for his critically acclaimed work at DC Comics with writer (and friend) Tom King on MISTER MIRACLE, BATMAN and THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON. He lives and draws in Phoenix, Arizona, with his wife and son.

"For those wishing that an 'adult superhero comic' meant more than just swearing and violence, MISTER MIRACLE might just be the series you've been waiting for all along." —**HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**

"A never-ending loop of the bizarre, anxious and absurd… King and Gerads excel at creating incredibly likable characters who attempt to untangle doomed causes." —**PASTE MAGAZINE**

"Tom King is arguably the finest writer in superhero comics today; Mitch Gerads is a penciler, inker, and colorist par excellence; and their teamwork here is nothing short of stunning." —**VULTURE**

THE GREATEST ESCAPE

"The best superhero story of the summer." —**GQ**

"Heartbreaking, funny, and human, it's an all-time classic in the making." —**WIRED**

NO PRISON CAN HOLD HIM. NO TRAP CAN CONTAIN HIM.

He is Scott Free, the worldwide celebrity sensation known as Mister Miracle, and he is the greatest escape artist who ever lived.

But can he pull off the ultimate trick—and escape death itself?

Something has gone horribly wrong with the perfect life that Scott and his wife Big Barda have made for themselves on Earth. With war raging between their homeworlds of Apokolips and New Genesis, Scott's cruel adoptive father, Darkseid, seems to have finally found the Anti-Life Equation—the weapon that will give him total victory.

As the mountains of bodies on both sides grow ever higher, only Mister Miracle can stop the slaughter and restore peace. But the terrible power of the Anti-Life Equation may already be at work in his own mind, warping his reality and shattering the fragile happiness he's found with the woman he loves.

Is death the trap that's been waiting for him all along? Or is it life itself? And what price will Scott Free have to pay to learn the answer?

Eisner Award winners Tom King and Mitch Gerads (BATMAN) present a bold new vision of one of Jack Kirby's greatest creations with MISTER MIRACLE—powerful, intimate and utterly unique, this modern comics classic will challenge everything you know about super-heroism! Collects the entire 12-issue series.

suggested for mature readers
dccomics.com

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"